

REAL GOD

A STUDY OF HIS ATTRIBUTES

ETERNAL, CREATOR, SOVEREIGN

Pastor Mark Driscoll

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we're going to talk about God can we do that for a little bit I know that the world is filled with bad news we're not going to just look out we're going to look up to the one who rules Reigns over everyone and everything we're going to find Our Hope and our joy in him I'm telling you this our God is bigger and better not just than you think God is bigger and better than you can think and I am super excited to spend this series telling you about our God our great glorious Majestic wonderful awe inspiring Incredible God and so what I'm going to do today we're going to kick off the real God sermon series we're going to look at God's attrib over the course of five weeks I've got tons of verses I'm going to move very fast you can't clap you can't laugh we have no time for that we have a lot of work to do and when we're talking about God's attributes we're talking about different aspects and elements of God's person and who God is and I've been preaching for more than 30 years I've never taught on this series and I'm incredibly excited a few things just by way of preface no one is born with an understanding or right knowledge of God that means that every every generation has to be taught otherwise the knowledge of our God ends in addition when we open the Bible the ultimate goal is to get to know who God is you may be new the Bible is for you but it's not about you it's about God the Bible opens in the beginning God the rest of the Bible is helping us learn who this God is in addition the problem in our day especially with younger Generations people are far more aware of their personality than God we know for far more about our character traits than God's attributes the result is increase mental health if you spend all your time thinking about you you are going to damage you if you think about him he will start healing you you can literally graph this the more people take personality tests instead of understanding who God is the more mental health they have here's the good news when you know who God is it starts to heal who you are if realize God is Sovereign you can stop being a control freak if you know that God is all knowing you don't need to follow everyone online you don't need to gossip in Busy Body in addition if you know that there is a God who has a plan for you you don't have to freak out Monday through Friday if you know who God is it changes who you are in addition what we are seeing as well is that as people are opening the Bible they're not coming to understand who God is and our hope per goal is to get to know this God and so I'm just going to jump right in we're going to cover a ton uh if you like verses congratulations you're going to get like a thousand and we're going to read fast and here's what I know I know that you can learn about God and I know that God the holy spirit is going to help you when you and I when we open the word of God we say God we want to get to know you God shows up to help in a way he doesn't show up for Netflix in a way he doesn't show up for the Nightly News politics and I believe that too many pulpits are too shallow and they don't trust the spirit of God to help people to love God with all their mind and so we're going to get to work if that's okay with you here's the first question I taught my kids when they were little when they were little I'd always ask him this question and then there were other questions the first question was how many gods are there and we had one kid for years complete heretic um 11 1375 I was like no we got to nail this and so now I'm happy to report no Heretics in our family but here is the question how many gods are there I'll just ask you like I asked my kids how many gods are there there's one God all right we're just going to read really fast okay here we go Deuteronomy 4:35 the Lord is God there is no other besides him Deuteronomy 32:39 God says there is no God beside me Psalm 86:10 you alone are God Isaiah 43:10 before me no God was formed nor shall there be any after me Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord there is no other beside me there is no God 1 Timothy 1:17 the king of Ages Immortal invisible the only God we're going to hit Old and New Testament 1 Timothy 2:5 there is one God what's so comforting about this as we understand who he is it Comforts us here's what's so great we have a world filled with religions and philosophies

and spiritualities and ideologies and it can get a little overwhelming how am I going to understand all that how will I sift all that ignore all that just get to know the one God you don't need to know all that is fake you just need to know he who is real I don't need to know about every religion they're all wrong except for the god of the Bible and I just need to get to know the god of the Bible and once I know the god of the Bible then I don't need to understand everything else and I'll be able to discern those things that are counterfeit and false if you could commit yourself to one thing I would suggest to you getting to know the one true real God would be the greatest investment of your time energy in life in addition this God is father son and spirit we're going to talk now about the Trinity there is one God three persons father son and spirit and when we're talking about the one true real God we're talking about this God here at Trinity Church we'll be talking about the God who is trinitarian and I'll just show it to you in the scriptures from the old to the New Testament Genesis 1 in the beginning God that is the father created the heavens and the Earth that's everything up there and everything down here the Earth was without form and void and darkness was over the face of the deep and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water so at creation God the father is there God the holy spirit is there two-thirds of the Trinity oh but we also learn next in John chapter 1 Jesus Christ was there as well in the beginning was the word that's Jesus the word was with God and the Word was God he was with God in the beginning all things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made and the word became flesh God became a man his name is Jesus Christ and he dwelt among us and we have seen his glory glory as of the only son from the father full of grace and truth God the Father God the son God the spirit one God three persons created everyone and everything this is so comforting and encouraging you're not here by accident there's a God who made you and he knows you and he loves you and he has a plan for you because he's a personal and relational God in addition not only did this God create us he created us in His image and likeness with a personality to be in a relationship it says this in Genesis 1:26 then God said let us there's the Trinity make man mankind Humanity in our image plural in our likeness God Made You God made us God made the world as a gift for you and me and God is personal and he wants to have a personal relationship with you as Jesus was being uh preparing to come into the world and as the prophets were sent forward to prepare his way uh we were told that this God who created us he was coming on a rescue mission for us and we read of the Trinity repeatedly in Isaiah 48:16 and now the Lord that is God the Father sent me Jesus and his Spirit we also read Isaiah is written 700 years before Christ walked on the earth the spirit of the Lord God Isaiah 61:1 that is the father is upon me Jesus because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor when Jesus arrived on the earth he quoted that verse to begin his ministry he said 700 years ago the Creator God who declared that he was coming into history he wrote it down in Prophecy and now I am here the father has sent me the son with the anointing of the Holy Spirit In addition God tells us that the Trinity was involved at the conception and birth of Jesus in Luke 1:35 the angel answered her this is Mary Jesus' Mother the Holy Spirit there's the holy spirit will come upon you the power of the most high that is God the Father will overshadow you therefore the child to be born will be called holy the Son of God Jesus Christ over and over and over father son Spirit father son Spirit father son spirit and this one true real God not only did this God create us this God also saves us and we read this in 1 Peter 1:2 the foreknowledge of God the Father the sanctification of the spirit for obedience to Christ to Jesus Christ for the sprinkling of his blood if you believe in Jesus Christ here's what happened before God made the world God knew that he was going to make you in addition God knew that you are going to sin against him so the father son and spirit they devised a plan to not only create you but

to save you and so the father sent the Son and the son lived without sin by the power of the Holy Spirit the son died in our place for our sins and then the spirit of God raised the Son of God from the dead not only did God the father son and spirit create us they also work together to save us uh we see as well the Trinity at the baptism of Jesus uh when Jesus was baptized Matthew 3:16-17 immediately he went up from the water behold the heavens were open to him he saw the spirit of God so now we have the Son of God and the spirit of God descending like a dove coming to rest on him and a voice from Heaven said this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased this is the Trinity the father speaks from Heaven the son comes up out of the water and the spirit of God descends from the father to the son you need to know that the one true God is father son and spirit and you need to know that any religion any philosophy any ideology that deviates from this is false and counterfeit and wrong the goal is not just to believe in God but to know the one true real God and belong to him alone and for those of us who have been baptized or will be baptized we're baptized in the name of the one true real God father son and spirit Matthew 28:19 go therefore Make Disciples of all Nations baptizing them in the singular name what is the name of God father and son and spirit here's what's so comforting about this God doesn't need us think of think of all of your relationships someone's always taking someone's always needing someone's always depending not God you need to know before there was time and space and matter and people and angels there was just God and God was fine God needed no one God needed nothing God created us just because he loved us and God who is father son and spirit who exists in Eternal loving Union and communion and relationship isn't just a force he's a person he he feels and he he he listens and he speaks and he relates and he cares and and God made us not because he needed us just to be an overflow of his loving joy and affection and and you need to know that God made you as a person to have a personal relationship with him and what I love about this God doesn't need us God didn't create us because he was lonely God didn't create us because he was needy God created us just to love us it's the purest relationship you will ever have it's literally a one-way relationship where God gives and he never takes and He blesses and he sacrifices and he serves because that's who he is some of you would then ask well what about other religions and philosophies and ideologies well there is one true God father son and spirit my next point is there are many demonic false gods innumerable these are powerful Fallen uh rebellious Divine beings that Empower politics and religion and spirituality and even do counterfeits signs wonders and miracles and as a result lots of people are deceived by these powerful deceiving Spirits I want to start in the book of Exodus we'll move from the old to the New Testament quickly in the days of Exodus there was a counterfeit of the kingdom of God it was the nation of Egypt the King was worshiped as a counterfeit Jesus and he was worshiped as The Sovereign Lord and they had counterfeit priests that did Divine Miracles lots of power and it is outside of the time of Jesus the most Supernatural concentrated period in Biblical history and and what happens is the real God shows up and picks a fight with a counterfeit demonic false gods so the backdrop of the whole story of Exodus is spiritual warfare the God versus the gods Exodus 12:12 God says I will pass through the land of Egypt that night and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt both man and Beast and on all the gods these are demonic counterfeits of Egypt egypt and I will execute judgments I am the Lord when you look at politics when you look at religion when you look at evil when you look at Injustice when you look at crime you ask why does it keep winning because it's demonic there are powerful Dark Forces at work in our world in addition Exodus 18:10 and 11 blessed be the Lord who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians I love this slide now I know that the Lord is greater than all

the gods you you need to know this Satan and demons are not equal to God no they are created by God they're not equal to God and so when a demon or an unclean Spirit picks a fight with God God is undefeated yeah okay because the almighty he he doesn't lack might this is where you need to know that some of you I just feel inclined to say this some of you have been deceived some of you are into other religions other philosophies other spiritualities some of you would say I've seen dreams or visions I've seen healings and miracles or Clairvoyance and I would say it's all demonic you've been absolutely and utterly deceived and Satan will do Miracles so that he can deceive you and snatch your soul in addition it says this in Exodus 20 verses 3-5 so in the middle of this Deliverance God speaks Ten Commandments to Moses we're going to deal with the first two Commandments you shall have no other gods before me Exodus 20 you shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or that is uh in the water under the Earth You shall not bow down to them or serve them for I the Lord your God I'm a jealous God see people will say things like well you know this religion works for me does it work for god well these beliefs work for me does it work for God at the end of the day if it doesn't work for God it's not going to work for you forever and ever and ever and ever God is a jealous God and what God says here is the first two things we need to know is there's only one God and we're not allowed to create another God and this is called idolatry it's a major theme in the Bible but there are two ways that we make Idols sometimes we make Idols um with our hands and sometimes we make Idols with our minds those who would worship created things rather than the Creator God that's idolatry say well I just live for my kids if I live for my grandkids if I live for my job if I live for my beauty if I live for my income that's an idol that's an idol someone or something is your highest loyalty your deepest Allegiance your greatest commitment and if it's not God it's an idol but often times the the idol that we create is not something um with our hands but with our minds it's not things it's thoughts let me say this the wrong view of God is an is a man-made Idol all other religions are idolatry even we'll get into this we're going to get into this about Jesus and if you're not offended just be patient I'll get there but here's what I'm saying everything but the god of the Bible is an idol every religion every spirituality every philosophy every ideology is something that is man-made it's not the Creator it's something we've created yeah and some of you you have created a version or view of God that is not real that's a figment of your imagination it is a god of your own creation and sometimes we don't need to just get rid of the things that we love but we need to get rid of the thoughts that we have some of you your primary objection to God I I I love you but I'm going to pick on you you are not as smart as you think and God is not as small as your mind I told you we don't have time for this um okay there are many false gods I'll just hit a few more verses uh John 17:3 the only true God lots of fake counterfeit demonic Gods only one true God well what are these other gods religions powerful beings 1 Corinthians 10:20 what pagans sacrifice and paganism is the greatest threat to Christianity yes today paganism is the greatest threat just doing what you want creating your own identity being perverse that's paganism what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God I do not want you to be participants with demons right now there are people in Sedona participating with demons right now there are people gearing up to go to Mormon church Jehovah's Witness church uh Buddhist temples uh Hindu shrines and mosques they're participating with demons they're participating with demons now I'll do two more and then we're going to do a lot more 2 Corinthians 4:4 the God of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God if you want to know what God looks like look at Jesus Christ he is the image of the invisible God he is the perfect reflection of the perfect God

and ultimately what he's saying is this there is a God of this world that is Satan himself see we were made by God and as men and women we were given dominion over the Earth and when we sinned against God when we sided with Satan we gave him dominion and Authority the result is now Satan is the God of this world if you're discouraged by the world if you're frustrated by the world if you're angry at the world you're paying attention because this world is controlled by dark diabolical demonic forces that's why if you do try to do that which is right you will find stiff resistance every single time the good news is not only is Satan the God of this world our God is the god over the God of this world we'll talk about that when we get to his sovereignty in a moment uh let me hit one more 2 Thessalonians 2 9-10 so we're in a world where Satan is the God of this world now the world makes sense yeah right if you look at the world you're like why is it not getting better it's because it has the wrong God until Jesus Christ the real God shows up the problems remain amen and until Jesus Christ shows up the God of this world makes things darker and darker and darker until the light of the world comes it says this in 2 Thessalonians 2 9-10 the coming of the Lawless one this is the Antichrist is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders and all Wicked deception this is what's so wonderful the Bible not only tells us who God is but who God's enemy is that means that we now have an opportunity as God's people to see all of human history in our life as in the backdrop of spiritual warfare there is God versus Satan there is good versus evil there is truth versus lies there is life versus death and every day we live in it and as we get nearer to the end and the unveiling and the coming of this God Jesus Christ things will get darker but see what's wonderful about God he prepares us he says it's going to get worse until Jesus returns for us as Christians this means that we don't need to have that level of anxiety that that depression that frustration because this world is passing away and Jesus Christ is bringing a brand new world and when our King arrives he will Dethrone the God of this world forever and ever now when it comes to the Lord Jesus you need to know that you can have the wrong God you can also have the wrong view of the right God some people will say they believe in Jesus but it's a counterfeit Christ Paul says this in 2 Corinthians 11 3-4 he says I am afraid as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning your thoughts again idolatry of the mind will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ for if someone comes and proclaims what another Jesus that's a counterfeit Christ then the one we proclaimed or if you receive a different Spirit that's not the Holy Spirit that's a demonic Spirit from the one you receive or if you accept a different gospel uh how to come into relationship with this God from the one you accepted you put up with it readily enough Jesus is the most towering significant figure in the history of the world as a result every religion spirituality every ideology every political party tries to find a way to include Jesus not the real Jesus but the counterfeit Christ I'll give you some examples there are Cults the problem with Cults is they pretend to be Christian but they have a counterfit Christ so it confuses Christians they say they're Christians and they say they believe in Jesus different Jesus I'll give you a few example within the progressive world right now of liberal apostate largely Mainline Christianity where the denominations are gone they're gone the Bible uses a line synagogue of Satan that's what they should change their name to just to be clear with the marketing and what they will say is that Jesus was just a good man and he was an enlightened teacher and he was a social justice War Warrior but he's not God and savior it's just a it's just a little Progressive left leaning Jesus in addition there are Cults like Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons they have a counterfit Christ we're going to get into this but all of God's attributes are shared by the father son and spirit one of which is that God is Creator we're going to deal with that in a moment Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons Mormons have rebranded themselves as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints Cults also do marketing the Church of Jesus you don't know you're not a church and you don't have the real Jesus you're your cult and you have a counterfeit Christ okay so let me say this if you're visiting from a Mormon church never go back you've come from a cult you've come from a cult and so Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons will both say that Jesus is not Creator he's created the job's witnesses will say he's the angel Gabriel who became a man and the Mormons will say that he's a created man who became a god he's one of many gods uh he is also the half brother of Lucifer and you can become a God too that's what they believe now they don't say that when they ride their bike [Laughter] [Applause] to hell it's where that bike ride ends just so you know Jesus I'm just I don't I me caring stopped a long time ago um when it comes to vague General spirituality they'll say that yeah we believe in Jesus he's a he's a guru he's a shaman he's an enlightened holy man but he's not God in the occult some of you come from the Masonic or from the Shriners these secret societies they're ults not just Cults they're Ault meaning they don't just have a counterfeit Jesus they have a demonic counterfeit Jesus and Within These secret societies there are levels of initiation and it's all demonic they won't use the name of Jesus and they will say that Jesus went through rights of initiation to have demonic power in addition in the world religions Hinduism and Buddhism say Jesus is a teacher a man or a shaman but he's not God and in Islam which is the fastest growing uh counterfeit on the earth they would say that Jesus is not God he is a prophet he is not just a prophet he is a lesser Prophet than Muhammad and so Jesus isn't even above Muhammad he's not even alongside of Muhammad well there are lots of ways to get Jesus wrong there's only one way to get Jesus right so what we're going to talk about that was my introduction um no it was that was my introduction and so now I want to get into God's attributes okay and God's attributes they're his traits his characteristics or his qualities and they're in two categories shared and unshared his unshared attributes God's all knowing all powerful all present we're not he doesn't share those attributes other attributes he shares he's loving he's forgiving he's kind he's truthful and he wants us to be like him let me just hit why it's so important and I just would beg you my my my volume isn't anger it's just urgency so few people really truly devote themselves to knowing who our God is there's nothing more amazing than getting to know this God there's nothing more healing or encouraging or helpful than getting to know this God and we live in a day when we're just inundated constantly with information we don't know who he is here's what the Bible says Jeremiah 9 23- 24 thus says the Lord let not the wise man boast in his wisdom let not the Mighty Man boast in his might let not the rich man boast in his riches but let him who boasts boast in this that he understands and knows me that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love Justice and righteousness in the earth Hosea 66 I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings two from the New Testament Jesus prayer in John 17:3 this is eternal life that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have said and the Apostle Paul one of the most Brilliant Minds in the history of the world here's what he says Philippians 3 8:10 I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and share in his sufferings becoming like him in death here's what it says of everything you could know and do the most important thing you can know is who God is and the most important thing you can do is devote your life to getting to know him and I'll just say this we have all wasted so much time and energy just scrolling on the phone being lied to and triggered and frustrated and tempted and coveting how little time is given by the mind that was created to love the Lord Our God with all of our mind how how little time and energy is devoted to thinking about God to knowing god to seeking God to to enjoying God to being absolutely a struck and overwhelmed by who this

God is I'm just telling you it's time to stop stop looking down at your phone it's time to start looking up to your God and if you do I'm telling you your mental health your emotional well-being and your life will change just a few things about God's attributes just just for technical purposes every member of the Trinity shares all the Divine attributes in addition God continuously Works simultaneously harmoniously through all of his attributes How could a loving God send people to Hell let me say this when God takes people to heaven and sends them to Hell he's loving both times right we're going to get into this when we get into the love of God don't take one of God's attributes and then set it against another attribute of God when God works he works perfectly harmoniously consistently across all of his attributes amen let me say this as well Satan and demons and angels do not share God's Divine attributes not his unshared attributes some of you you think everything Satan is out to get you he's not he can't be everywhere like God so there there's a story in Daniel 9 just briefly so the angel Gabriel is trying to get somewhere and he's a few weeks late it's kind of a weird story Gabriel shows up they're like they're like you're late he's like I know I've been fighting demons for weeks they slowed me down you know what that means Angels like us they need to travel they do they fly first class but they have to travel like us and it means just like us sometimes if somebody fights us it takes us a while to get through the fight that's true that's not true for God God doesn't need to travel God's are like sorry I'm late I mean I got in quite a scrum was trying to fly over you know a major city and it's such a stronghold it just it took me way it's not like that for God bad teaching happens when we take some of God's attributes but not all let me let me speak to those of you that maybe have a little church experience usually it's not that something false is said about God it's that not all that is true is said about God so if you grew up in more of a progressive liberal you know Mainline Protestant church here were God's attributes love and mercy that's it you don't need to repent you're great you pick your gender you do what you like everybody's going to heaven a loving God would never send anybody to Hell you'll be fine that's what you're told it's not true what about God's holiness what about his Justice what about his wrath what about his judgment ah no you know the guy in the rainbow dress who's supposed to be the Pastor said that those were his Junior High years and he's moved on he's matured now if how many of you grew up in Pentecostal Church raise your hand I know you want to I know you do okay so I know you do if you grew up in a Pentecostal Church they focused on God's imminence which is his presence and his power so every sermon is about God's here and he's going to do miracles and it's all about chasing and seeking signs and wonders which can leave you open to the Demonic cuz Satan does counterfeit signs wonders and miracles and sometimes God decides he's not g to do a miracle today he's like today I'm I'm going to work out of sovereignty I'm going to organize events and let it play itself out you're like God did you abandon me he's like no no no I just it's not always a miracle I've got other attributes and I'm free and some times I show up and do stuff and other times I don't and what happens then is if you GRE up on a Pentecostal tradition then the question is how do we make God do the stuff if you can make him he's not God you are God is not your employee he's your lord he doesn't do what you tell him to do he does what he wants to do that's because he's Sovereign couple other things some of you grew up in what is more of a reformed or Presbyterian Church well they would stress that God is Sovereign and God is Holy he's far away he's not very relational so these people they're not very relational they're sort of just mean and cruel and distant they're probably right now on the internet proving my point by commenting they're not going to stop and pray for me cuz they don't think that God answers prayer cuz he's sovereign and how many of you grew up in a Baptist Church somebody like I don't know I mean come out of the closet just just own it all right if you grew up in a Baptist or

more of a fundamentalist Church the the attributes of God that we're stressed is God is truthful and judge so the Bible's true and he judges us you know what those people are cheerless they don't they don't talk much about God's mercy God's love God's forgiveness God's Beauty and so in you're when you're in relationship with those people every day feels like you're in court and they're sitting on the bench first first verse guilty guilty guilty many Christians suffer from an insufficient view of who God fully and totally and truly is we don't worship god with some of his attributes we worship God for all of his attributes couple of things as well and then I will get to my point um God can be known truly but he can't be known fully even the one of the reasons I've waited more than 30 years to teach this series is okay let's talk about God okay with a three-b brain all right using language okay and you're a fallen sinner that grew up in the 80s listening to heavy metal which means it's probably fried all the circuits anyways so there has to be some humility when you go to study God right God Is Bigger Than language now he's not contrary but because God is a person language strains to articulate the greatness and the glory and the grander of this God and the goal of learning about God is not just to master god in the mind but to Marvel at God in the soul Satan and demons they know exactly who God is they don't love him you can study and knowledge puffs up but until you get to a point where you're like wow you know everything wow you created everything wow you made human life Wow you wrote a book wow you came for me wow wow wow wow wow you want to be with me no one does wow that's incredible you're loving oh yes I will I will be loved you forgive I've done some stuff wow right right you can get so familiar with God that you're no longer Amazed by God let me give you three of God's unshared attributes um the real God is eternal this means he's without beginning or end he's he's outside of time because he created time and matter he's Sovereign over time and matter uh let's just read quick Genesis 21:33 here's the word Everlasting the Lord the Everlasting God Psalm 90:2 from Everlasting to Everlasting you are God Jeremiah 10:10 the Lord is the true God he is the Living God the Everlasting King the Bible uses these words to explain that which just strains the imagination somebody ask what's it like to be Eternal I have no idea what is it like I don't know God's God's totally other can you imagine not having time me too I would love it I'll get to that whenever cuz I don't do time oh that'd be amazing okay the real God is eternal here here's the word Eternal Deuteronomy 33:27 the Eternal God is your Dwelling Place Romans 1:20 his invisible attributes his eternal power divine nature Hebrews 9:14 the eternal spirit 1 Peter 5:10 his eternal glory in Christ in 1 John 5:10 his son Jesus Christ he is the true God and eternal life that's where an eternal God gives eternal life how about the next ones the Bible uses the words forever and ever Psalm 10:16 the Lord is king forever and ever I can't wait till Jesus comes back we have no more elections and every year is just Jesus in charge can't wait can't wait and if any were like I don't know November seems interesting you need to get drug tested okay this is not going Revelation 4:9 and 10 whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who Seated on the throne who lives forever and ever the 24 Elders fall down before him who Seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever I can't Jesus is coming Revelation 11:15 Christ shall reign how long forever and ever how about how about these we'll go to uh to this line This is on the eternity of God Exodus 3:14 there's a bush that's burning speaking to Moses it's a curious moment the bush says hey go tell the king that I'm going to crush him and set my people free and Moses is like well who should I say sent me because if I say the bush they're going to think I was smoking the bush you know so God said to Moses I am who I am that's a statement of eternity and he said say to the people of Israel I am a sent you years later Jesus says in John 8:58 I tell you the truth Jesus said I am I am and then one more Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet that the New

Testament was originally written in Revelation 21:6 I Jesus Christ am the Alpha and the Omega I created the beginning and I'll be there at the end it's eternity Revelation 22:13 same thing I Jesus Christ am the Alpha and the Omega the first and the last the beginning in the end let me just try with the three-b Fallen brain and the limits of language to explain eternity God is outside of time God is Sovereign over time God is not bound or limited by time but God can involve himself in time that's think of it in this way um you go to watch a film first time you've ever seen the film you're like oh my gosh plot twist emotion anxiety Intrigue fear resolution oh is an emotional rooll roller coaster what if you're the filmmaker you made the film you watched the film you don't experience the film the same way as the person seeing the film for the first time for God all of human history is like a film that he's already watched because it's a story that he's already written okay this is this is where we reach points when we study God literally you're just like oh my goodness this God is not a God that we have invented or created this is not the god of our imagination this is the god of divine revelation we would have never even conceived of this God but he's revealed himself to us what I love about this God is Sovereign over time that means that God knows the future that means that all the Prophecies of scripture are true that means that Jesus Christ Christ is coming because in God's understanding that's already completed again some of you'd ask what is that like I have no idea but it's awesome not only is the real God Eternal he's Creator he created time space and matter before the beginning there was God who has no beginning he's the Creator uh we'll read these quickly Genesis 1:1 and 2 in the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth the Earth was without form and void Darkness was over the face of the deep the spirit the holy spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters Psalm 19:1 the heavens declare the glory of God and the sky proclaims his handiwork you look at the world you're like God you are magnificent and beautiful and powerful and overwhelming Isaiah 43:15 I am the Lord your Holy One your Creator and your king Jeremiah 32:17 oh Lord God it is you who have made the heavens and the Earth by your great power by your outstretched arm nothing nothing it's too hard for you oh next Romans 1:20 his invisible attributes namely his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world evolution is a lie evolution is a lie creation of the world in the things that have been made so they are without excuse and Hebrews 11:3 by faith we understand that the Universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible let me just talk to you briefly here about the power of the word of God before there was time there was God before there was matter there there was God before there was anything there was God before there was anyone there was God and God just spoke and time space and matter leapt into existence out of obedience to his Divine Authority God didn't use any pre-existing matter he just spoke it friends this is the power of God's word the Holy Spirit reminds me in the opening chapters of Genesis which explain the creation account it says over and over God said and it was so God said and it was so God said and it was so the word of God brought everything into existence the word of God brought everyone into existence this is the sheer power of the Divine word of God this is why we are a Bible believing Bible studying Bible preaching Church there is no power from God apart from the word of God when we started this church we didn't have a band we didn't have a sound system I if you know this I don't really need a mic um we didn't have a kids ministry people were asking well how are you going to get a church the same way that God got the world you just release the word of God and then life happens you being here is a testimony to the power of God's word to bring life and to bring healing and to bring joy into the world so God is eternal in addition God is Creator and now I want to talk about God is Sovereign because he's Eternal he's Sovereign over time because he's Creator he's Sovereign

over matter um Sovereign means this there is no other God there's no one equal to God there's no one alongside of God there's no one like God there never has been and there never will be there's no one who can stop God there's no one who can thwart God there's no one who can defeat God there's no one who can Dethrone God God is completely and utterly Sovereign he rules and Reigns over everywhere and everyone and everything I'll give you some scriptures Psalm 336 through let me just say this to I just feel like saying this Isn't it nice that someone's in charge Isn't it nice that someone's in control Isn't it nice that he loves us and Isn't it nice that he's good to us yes if you don't know the sovereignty of God every day you're going to have tremendous anxiety every difficulty is going to just break you and the closer we get to the second coming of Christ as you look at the Brokenness in the world you're just going to have fear and anxiety and worry and mental health and stress and you will not be sure where the world is going God is over it and he's for us and he loves us and he's going to work it out and you don't have to freak out while he's working it out I I just I feel like I'm supposed to say this I think that a significant portion of mental health would disappear if people just actually lived in faith of God's sovereignty if he's in charge why am I freaking out two people are like I don't know I just I don't know I'm dealing with a lot I know he's Sovereign but you know I got it's I don't know okay Psalm 33 6-11 by the word of the Lord the heavens were made by the breath of his mouth all their host those are the Angels let all the Earth fear the lord let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him a you know why people go to the Grand Canyon to feel small because we're small God's bigger than the Grand Canyon stand in awe of him for he spoke and it came to be he commanded and it stood firm the Lord brings the Council of the Nations to nothing all the politicians and the pundits and the polls and the votes like here's what we're doing he's like I could care less he frustrates the plans of the people the counsel of the Lord stands forever the plans of his heart to all generations acts 4:24 they lifted up their voices together to God and said Sovereign Lord if he ain't Sovereign he ain't Lord you who made Heaven and Earth and the Sea and everything in them and I love this one 1 Timothy 6 13-16 I charge you in the presence of God who gives life to all things and of Christ Jesus to keep the Commandments unstained and and free from reproach it's it's amazing God spoke and creation obeyed him and we don't keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ he who is the blessed and only Sovereign king of kings and Lord of lords who has immortality um again some you ask okay what's it like for God to be the Sovereign well let me explain it to you there are a few things that I want to I'm trying to articulate that which is beyond um some of you need to know that that the reason you're a control freak because you don't trust that God's in control the reason you try to control the outcome of everyone and everything is because you don't believe that he is sovereign so you're trying to do his job High control people are anti- sovereignty of God people and to be Sovereign means that God he has he has two options he can either involve himself and determine an outcome or he could just let people make decisions he's free either way to be the Sovereign means you're free and when it comes to the sovereignty of God let me set up two guard rails to help keep you in a right understanding of God on one side you need to know that God is Sovereign and there is a false heretical counterfeit teaching called open theism and it means that the future is open and that God isn't Sovereign over it and God's not sure how it's all going to work out and God's in it like us he's like a big version of us like God's Learning growing changing evolving developing he's learning no he's not he's Sovereign he's in control the future is not open it's closed by God's Divine Design and his Sovereign plan on the other side those who would over and wrongly emphasize the sovereignty of God they end up with something called determinism determinism is for example the Islamic view not the biblical view of God and that is

that everything that happens was precisely God's plan the problem with that is evil when we read the Bible God says repeatedly do this don't do that and then we do the opposite well that can't be his plan because he said to do something very different than what we're doing so the problem then becomes if everything is God's plan and this meticulous Providence means that everything that happens is God's will God's good and evil the Bible says that God is good not evil that he is light there is no darkness in him at all and so to be Sovereign means you're free and you can either let people make decisions or you can control the outcome you could do whatever you want for those who overemphasize or wrongly emphasize the sovereignty of God they end up turning God into a very cruel being I'll give you a story and this is where your view of God sets your emotional trajectory for your life so Grace and I were on the a my wife and it was years ago the phone rang and it was a woman who was very distraught and she called Grace a friend of ours new Christian wonderful family great parents we love these people they're friends of ours she is just devastated she is weeping uncontrollably she was in the middle of a miscarriage and this was I don't know the number this was many years ago this was like her 20th miscarriage okay we lost one child in a miscarriage and I still cry thinking about it I couldn't even imagine what this poor woman was enduring she so she called and she asked she said Pastor Mark can I ask you a question I said yes you can here's the question why does God keep killing my babies I said oh what do you mean she says' well everything that happens is God's will I said I said we live in a broken Fallen cursed world when God made the world everything was good and everyone was alive and then we sinned and people started dying the Bible has this line who has known the mind of the Lord and I'm not going to raise my hand you know the secret things belong to the Lord his ways are higher than my ways there's a lot I don't understand and I live by faith not by sight I told her I said I am so sorry I said but I I here's what I know about God he reveals himself not just as Sovereign but father and the father Heart Of God doesn't just wake up every day trying to kill your babies because you love Jesus and you want to raise them to love and serve Jesus right what she needed was compassion and empathy she needed imminence or presence she needed love in that moment she she she only understood the sovereignty of God which is true so then she asked I wasn't planning on sharing this but then she asked she said what do you think happened to my baby I said well God is Sovereign he will choose she said oh good maybe I'll see all my babies I said they're probably hanging out with my baby we'll probably meet all of them in the end at the end of the day God is over everyone and everything that doesn't mean that everything that happens is exactly what God wanted there is sin and evil and Injustice and Disobedience and demonic but God's still Sovereign over it and and this is the hope of the believer that God's good is bigger than our bad I'll give you two verses just to comfort your soul uh Genesis :20 Joseph's family his brothers abandoned betrayed him they disowned him they sold him into slavery he ended up going to prison falsely accused of sexual crimes his life was destroyed and then he was reunited with his brothers and here's what he says as for you you meant evil I mean it was evil but God there's the hope of the sovereignty of God but God meant it for good to bring it about that many people should be kept alive as they are today here's the wonderful beauty of the sovereignty of God even when evil is done God is so good that he can even use evil for good it doesn't mean he does evil it means he's bigger than evil what's true in Joseph's life is true in our life Romans 8 28 we know that for those who love God what things all things the Brokenness the trauma the Betrayal the adultery the the death the the bankruptcy the the sickness the cancer the anxiety the fear the frustration the madness all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose it doesn't say in this life this is why when someone is suffering be careful that well God's Sovereign also God is loving so love and

God is present so practice the ministry of presence and God is patient so put an arm around him and walk the process but ultimately when all is said and done God will take everything that all of his children have been through and he will turn it for good forever and ever I I can't wait my mind melted my soul melted this week I was think about what is it going to be like when we see Jesus in glory and and it's all over and he's worked out everything for good and and it reminds me in Revelation it says that that we're worshipping him all the time and that we're singing new songs I started thinking I wonder wonder if I wonder if it won't be eternally hearing the testimonies of The Sovereign goodness of God I wonder if we won't be in the presence of Jesus and somebody steps forward says okay here's everything that happened in my life and Jesus is like and here's how I use it for good we're all like wow write a song we need to sing about that and then the next guy walks out and he's like well tell here's my life and Jesus is like okay let me show you I worked it all out for good oh write another song I think in God presence we're going to hear and see of the sovereignty of God working out all things for good forever and ever we're going to be cheering and celebrating we're going to be glorifying and honoring the the the the musicians are going to be songwriting and every day they're going to be like I can't wait to hear what's next let me close with this um let me let me bring the band up um so let's just let's just go into a very holy place in the scriptures um when it when it speaks of the the sovereignty of God there's an image that is my favorite it's a throne see because a king who has dominion and authority and Rule and Reign sits on a throne sits on a throne in the Bible a throne appears around 200 times it appears 61 times just in the New Testament 45 of those occurrences are in the last book of the New Testament Revelation Revelation is about the end it's about God's Sovereign plan in full completion with a second coming and the ruling and reigning of Jesus Christ Our Eternal God who entered into history our Creator God who comes to take back creation our Sovereign God who will rule forever over every inch of his creation it's the throne and the centerpiece of history is the throne and the centerpiece of scripture is the throne and guess who's Seated on that Throne it's Jesus Christ and and right now right now right now right now Jesus is on a throne amen right now and he he is being worshiped right now in the Unseen realm departed saints that belong to him right now they're seeing him and they're praising him and and and angels are surrounding him and it tells us here's what they're singing Holy Holy Holy that's one of his attributes we're going to get there is the Lord God on Almighty and and right now right now Jesus is being worshiped as Eternal and Creator all of this is in Revelation 4 Eternal they say we worship Him who lives forever and ever that's Eternal and and it says worthy are you our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power for you created all things right now Jesus is Sovereign it's on his throne right now Jesus is being worshiped as Eternal God and our creator and and what's happening right now it tells us in Revelation 4 that that everyone and everything is going to the throne of Jesus it's all going to pass before The Sovereign Throne of Jesus Christ and right now right now here's what it says says that Before the Throne there are Kings guess what they're doing Before the Throne they're kneeling right they're not Kings anymore they're worshippers and it says that the Kings got off their Throne to fall before his throne and it says in Revelation 4 you know what they're doing right now with their crowns yeah taking their crowns off and they're laying him where at his feet at his feet um those feet have nail scars that Sovereign King got off his throne and came down and died for us and then he returned to glory and right now he is on his throne and there is coming a time my friend when you and I are going to stand Before the Throne of Jesus Christ and my hope my prayer my goal is that when you see him in full Glory you will join them in taking your crown your achievements your accomplishments your resume your performance just lay it at his feet and just

look at the feet of the Eternal God who created you and is ruling as Sovereign just see the nail scars in his feet and and just worship Him and enjoy him and thank him and love him and there's a I'll close with this there's a there's a word in the New Testament for worship in our English translation it is often translated worship the the Greek word is proskuneo here's what it literally means to kiss the feet the New Testament word for worship is literally to kiss the nail scarred feet of Jesus Christ as Sovereign Lord Jesus we love you so much Jesus there's no one like you father son Spirit we just love you thank you that you've loved us God we were made to worship and when we do we get healed we get changed we get saved we get delivered we get encouraged and God I just ask right now that father from from your throne you would send the holy spirit that he would be present with us and bring that same Spirit of worship that is happening right now around the Throne of Jesus Lord Jesus would you please fulfill your own Prayer by sending the spirit your kingdom come your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven and we ask holy spirit that right now as we worship that this would be a thin place that heaven and Earth would come together that as we worship Jesus in the scene realm we would join those who are worshiping him in the Unseen realm and Jesus we just say in our hearts we love you so much we thank you that one day we're going to be faced down before your throne and we're going to have a chance to kiss your feet and that's going to be the greatest day that we will have ever known in Jesus name amen amen love you guys thanks for let me teach