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Preacher: Will Hanstien
Evangelist: Andrew Lemus

Contact Us
303-816-9212
conifercoc@conifercoc.com
25587 Conifer Rd
Suite 105 #410
Conifer, CO 80433

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MOUNTAIN RAMBLIN'

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Number 5

God Has Been Revealed by Wayne Burger

Because we are human we are limited in what we can know and understand. Thus, we are finite. The God we serve is infinite. He has always been. He is everywhere and He knows all things. There is no way that finite beings can know and understand an infinite being. But, because we can't know and understand all things about God doesn't mean that we can't know some things about God. We can know something about God because He has revealed Himself to us in two ways. First, He has revealed Himself by what is called "Natural Revelation" and second He has revealed information about Himself through what is called "Special Revelation."

Natural Revelation

As the term "Natural Revelation" conveys, it is what one can learn about God from nature itself. When Paul revealed God's condemnation of the Gentiles, he declared that they were not ignorant of God. He wrote, "that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20). Long before, the

Psalmist had written, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1). Because God has declared Himself in nature, the psalmist also said, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).



It would be interesting but require a separate study to probe into what one can learn about God from nature. Paul did summarize some of the things one can learn from nature by saying that one can learn about God's: (1) Attributes, (2) Eternal power, and (3) His divine nature (Romans 1:20).

Special Revelation

The second way that one can know something about God is through what is called, "Special Revelation." That is information that God has given to us through His revealed word. This information came in a "special" way and thus the term, "Special Revelation." Speaking about -----*Continued on pg. 2*

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the unique role that the apostles and prophets played in revealing God and His wisdom to humanity Paul said, "to us (inspired men) God revealed them through the Spirit" (I Corinthians 2:10). He goes on to write, "the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God" (I Corinthians 2:10). He then gives an illustration which basically says, "No one knows what another person thinks except that person himself or the spirit of that person." He then applied that to God. "Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" (I Corinthians 2:11). Through special revelation the Spirit of God revealed God's mind. Paul explains that his understanding of God did not come through his own human abilities but through the Holy Spirit. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, (and write) not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit" (I Corinthians 2:12-13).

The principle of God revealing His mind through inspired men was true of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Speaking of the Old Testament writers Peter said, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (II Peter 1:20-21). Speaking of all the revealed will of God, Paul wrote, "All Scripture is inspired by God" (II Timothy 3:16).

What anyone knows about God is only going to come from one of these two sources, either nature or the Bible. Since the last book of the Bible was finished, which was about 100 A.D., no other information about God has been revealed. God has not revealed anything new to anyone since the last inspired writer wrote the final word and laid down his pen. Neither is anyone in the future going to learn anything new about God from his own mind or imagination. All that has been revealed about God was revealed when the Bible was completed.

Winning the Prize by Andrew Lemus

On Monday Michael Phelps stood at the top of the podium at the Olympic Games with his ninth gold medal around his neck. He has now tied the record for the most gold medals won by an athlete and it is believed that he will break this record in the next couple of days. Last night a television station took a short break from the news of those who were receiving medals at the Olympic Games to focus on those who didn't. One person that was spoken of was Jessica Hardy.

You probably haven't heard the name of Jessica Hardy because she was disqualified from the Olympic Games. She tried to receive a gold medal by taking illegal drugs. What a disappointing end to a woman who has dedicated her life to swimming. One can only imagine how large the chasm is between the joy of Michael Phelps and the sorrow of Jessica Hardy.

Opening up our Bible's we see the analogy Paul makes between our walk as Christians and the life of an athlete. He writes, "if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules" (2 Timothy 2:5). Like a gold medal around the neck of an Olympian is the reception of an eternal dwelling in heaven. Like Michael Phelps, we must compete according to the rules in order to be rewarded for our efforts. As Christians we should discipline our bodies and minds daily to be obedient to God so that we can receive the prize (1 Corinthians 9:27).

When the church stands before the judge there is going to be a separation between those who have ran according to the rules and those who haven't. There are going to be Christians standing on the podium and Christians who will be disqualified (Matthew 13). What a horrible day it will be for those who had dedicated their lives to God but violated the rules given by Him. Let us run the race according to the rules so that we may obtain an eternal place in heaven.