

The Knowledge of the Holy

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6 -- The Self-Sufficiency of God

To what statement in the Bible does the author point to teach us that God is self-sufficient?

“THE FATHER HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF.” [1ST ¶, 1ST SENTENCE]

What must we admit if we say that God has any sort of need?

GOD IS INCOMPLETE. [4TH ¶, 1ST SENTENCE]

“His interest in His creatures arises from His sovereign good _____, not from any need those creatures can _____ nor from any completeness they can bring to Him who is _____ in Himself.”

PLEASURE / SUPPLY / COMPLETE. [4TH ¶, LAST SENTENCE]

By what axiom do we as created beings exist?

WE NEED OTHER CREATED BEINGS, AND WE ALL TOGETHER NEED GOD. [5TH ¶, 6TH SENTENCE]

Why can God not be elevated?

BECAUSE HE IS BY NATURE ALREADY SUPREME OVER ALL. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THERE IS NO PLACE TO WHICH HE CAN BE LIFTED, AND THERE IS NO ONE TO PROMOTE HIM. [9TH ¶]

“To _____ in Him adds _____ to His perfections; to _____ Him takes nothing away.”

BELIEVE / NOTHING / DOUBT. [10TH ¶, LAST SENTENCE]

What do you understand the above statement to mean in regard to your salvation?

ANSWERS WILL VARY / DIRECT ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WE WERE SAVED FOR GOD'S GLORY FIRST AND OUR FORGIVENESS SECOND.

In what way does our natural egotism view God and His plans?

GOD IS FRUSTRATED IN HIS PLANS, AND HE DESPERATELY NEEDS US TO HELP HIM TO ACCOMPLISH THEM. [11TH ¶, 2ND SENTENCE]

What illustration does the author use to show how foolish the answer to the above question? (hint: a military illustration)

GOD AND HIS ANGELS ARE UNDER SIEGE, AND WE CAN ONLY TRUST HIM IF HE WINS THE SEESAW BATTLE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG. [13TH ¶]

What does the Bible teach emphatically?

THAT GOD EXISTS FOR HIMSELF AND WE FOR HIS GLORY, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. [14TH ¶, 5TH SENTENCE]

Why, then, is unbelief such a deadly sin?

IT TRUSTS IN NEEDY MEN AND DENIES THE SELF-SUFFICIENT GOD. [15TH ¶]

What is the basic statement true of much of modern Christianity? (hint: who needs whom?)

IF WE NEED HIM, HE ALSO NEEDS US. [17TH ¶, LAST SENTENCE]

“For the blessed news is that the God who _____ no one has in sovereign condescension _____ to work by and in and through His _____ children.”

NEEDS / STOOPED / OBEDIENT. [18TH ¶, LAST SENTENCE]

How does this chapter challenge what you think about God?

You can download reading guides for The Knowledge of the Holy and other books at www.lifeisworship.com on the Resources page.

antithesis -- exact opposite

axiom -- principle

desert -- what we deserve

divesting -- to strip or to dismantle

idiom -- expression

ignoble -- unworthy, corrupt

ingratiating -- flattering

puerile -- childish

seraph -- a kind of angel

usurp -- seize