
Thinking God Is Like Man

Jack Thompson

"But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, And that thou hast taken my covenant in thy mouth, Seeing that thou hatest instruction, And castest my words behind thee? When thou sawest a thief thou consentedst with him, And hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, And thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; Thou slanderest thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence: Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself: But I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes" (Psalm 50:16-21).

You will note in verse 21 of this context the Lord accused David and the people, of thinking Jehovah "was altogether such an one as thyself." Man acts as he does often because he thinks that God is like man; that Jehovah thinks as man thinks, acts as man acts; reasons as man reasons. Man in his own wisdom is not able to elevate himself to the high and lofty heights of Jehovah, so he attempts to bring God down to his own level. **BUT GOD WILL NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THIS MANNER!!** There are many ways that man seemingly thinks that God IS LIKE MAN!! I would like to consider some of these things this morning. Get your Bible, your pencil and paper and be ready to study along with us as we consider this vital lesson.

1. **MAN HIDES FROM MAN** and he in turn thinks he can hide from God. In Genesis 3:8, Adam and Eve made a futile attempt to hide from Jehovah, but they did not succeed. They must have reasoned, "We will get behind the trees, and He will not see us." But how foolish!! Man tries often to hid his deeds from God, because he finds himself able at times to hid his evil deeds from

his fellow man. Jesus in John 3:19, 20, states, "And this is the judgement, that the light is come into the world, and man loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reproved." Evil doers seek the cover of darkness, they know the light will expose their evil deeds. But God knows the actions of man, nothing is hidden from Him. Hebrews 4:12, 13, "For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature that is not manifest in his: for all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do." How often men run from the spiritual light of the gospel, lest their evil lives be exposes. This is why so few will truly study the scriptures. It is so much easier to throw up a smoke-screen than it is to take the word of God and intelligently discuss it. We need to have it impressed on our minds that the Word of God will judge us in the last day. Listen to John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my saying, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day." So, how careful we must be in knowing this word, learning it and doing it. NO, MAN CANNOT HID FROM GOD, even though he might be able to hid from his fellow man.

2. MAN DECEIVED MAN; therefore, he thinks he can deceive God. We read of an example of a man and his wife who sought to deceive God. Acts 5:1-10. You might like to read the complete story of this incident. Ananias and Sapphira tried to deceive Peter and the rest, but they did not deceive God. There is no way to fool the Lord, try as man might. Men lay awake all night dreaming up ways to deceive their fellow man, and very often they are successful in pulling the wool over the eyes of many people, but you just rest assured God will not be mocked. Galatians 6:7-9 reads, "Be not deceive; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that

soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the spirit reap eternal life." So often man offers his many excesses for not doing the will of God, thinking he has deceived the Lord, but actually he has only deceived himself; for the Lord knows and is able to discern the truth.

3. MAN IS SLACK IN HIS WORD TOWARD HIS FELLOW MAN -- thus, he is tempted to think God is slack in His word. This is but another way that man deludes himself into thinking that God is like unto man, but again man errs. Jehovah God means exactly what He says. Hear Him, 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." And, again in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, "And to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus; who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might." From these two passages we learn that the Lord is coming again, not for the purpose of establishing an earthly kingdom (and we will have more to say on this subject at a later date), but for the purpose of judgment. The righteous shall be rewarded; the wicked shall be condemned. Man is often slack in his word, but such is not true with the Lord

--- He means just exactly what He has said and man had better open their eyes and recognize this fact. NOTE: When the Lord returns He shall render vengeance to them that KNOW NOT GOD and to them that OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. From this we learn that the gospel is something that man must obey. Paul in Romans 1:16, states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Therefore, only in GOSPEL OBEDIENCE IS THERE SALVATION. God says what He means and He means what He says. His word is the final authority in all things pertaining to the salvation of the souls of mankind. Man need not attempt to fool himself into thinking that God does not mean what He says. Sometimes we hear people say, "We do not need authority for everything that we do in religion," but such is fallacious reasoning. Hear the apostle

John in Revelation 22:18-19, "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book." In principle these words apply to all of God's word. His word includes everything He wants it to include and He leaves out everything He did not want in it. God's word is both inclusive and exclusive. This simply means man has no right to come along and insert something not found in God's word into the work, the worship, the organization, or any other aspect of the church. For this reason, if for no other, man does not have the right to add human arrangements and organizations onto the work of the church. Human wisdom has no place in figuring out what God wants man to do. The only solution to knowing what the Lord would have us to do is by coming to the Book of God, studying the scriptures, determining what He has commanded of us; and then doing it with all of our abilities.

(4) MAN CAN BE BRIBED INTO APPROVAL. And how often we have seen our fellow man fall into the temptation of bribery, many dollars passing beneath the table to persuade someone to perform a favor, or give them some advantage. We read of Judas Iscariot accepting 30 pieces of silver to betray our Lord and Savior, handing him over to the mob for crucifixion. Many today are willing to betray the Lord for such trivial fleshly gain. We can hardly pick up our newspapers without reading of some public official being accused and often convicted of taking a bribe to slip something by a gullible public. Because of his ability to bribe his fellow man, people today seem to think they can bribe the Lord, but such cannot be done. Some attend the worship services only occasionally, when they feel that maybe the Lord needs token acts on their part. Others seem to think if they give a pretty good check each week then everything else will be alright, deluding themselves into thinking as long as they give a goodly amount then they can live and act like they want to the rest of the week. Some religious bodies stamp their approval upon the members who give the most, seemingly without regard to the kind of life they live. BUT, GOD WILL NOT BE BRIBED INTO APPROVAL. This is not to say that our contributions are not important, because they are. The child of God must "give, not grudgingly, nor of necessity," so states Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:7. Jehovah expects the very best we have to give Him in everything. The complete body and soul must belong to God, or else He will have none of us. This idea of believing in the Lord, and living like the Devil is not found in God's Holy Book. Some leave the impression that you can just live like you want to ---live in the sins of satan, live in adultery, drunkenness, lying right and left, but just believe on the Lord and everything is just fine. DON'T YOU BELIEVE, THAT IS THE MESSAGE OF SATAN. Either God will be first in our lives or else He will be last. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). Either you do His Will or you don't. It isn't enough to do part of what God

says and then add or subtract from the rest. NO, GOD CANNOT BE BRIBED INTO APPROVAL. He demands our very best, Our all. Peter left all and followed Jesus. Luke 5:11.

(5) ANOTHER LINE OF REASONING THAT MAN FOLLOWS WHEREIN HE SEEMINGLY THINKS GOD IS LIKE MAN IS IN REGARD TO SIN. Man thinks that sin is not so terrible, and as we look around us how sad the picture is being painted by may as man winks at sin, laughs at sin, looks upon sin so lightly. Fornication has become the "IN" thing now, lewdness and filthy talk is the thing of the day. The motion picture industry and the television producers have thrown reason and common sense to the wind. Today if a picture is not rated "M" or "R" for mature audiences it just isn't filmed. We see so many of the pictures now being made stamped with the phrase "No one under 18 admitted." And how many supposedly Christians relish such trash, even allowing their children's minds to be warped by such filth. Man's tongue has a way of showing how that person thinks -- and today it seems as if people cannot open their mouth without some curse word or some lewd or filthy story coming forth. I was walking in the Beaumont Mall a few week ago and a very attractive young teen-ages girl passed me, walking with a young man. I have never heard such filth as was proceeding out of her mouth. As I walked behind them for a very few moments, I was appalled at the language they were both using. And it seemed to be a practice that they were accustomed to. What a tragedy, that young minds are filled with filth and obscene language. We could spend a whole lesson here as we think of the crumbling standards of morals in our nation, and maybe in the near future we shall spend more time on this. Bur for now, our point is: MAN THINKS SIN IS NOT TOO BAD, and he thus thinks Jehovah feels the same way about sin; But again, THIS IS MORE DECEPTION ON MAN'S PART, for God feels the same way He has always felt about sin. Listen to Isaiah 59:1, 2, "Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated

between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear." Sin separates man from God. Sin destroys the soul of man. You will note: Sin does not only separate the one in the world from God, but sin will separate anyone from God, including the child of God, if that Child of God persist in his sins and does not repent of them and confess them. The passage in Isaiah is addressed to God's children under the former dispensation. Sin is sin and there is nothing as terrible as sin. Paul, the apostle, states, "For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Anyone who continues to live in sin will die a spiritual death. Sin cannot and will not enter the presence of Jehovah. Through obedience to Christ Jesus and the cleansing power of His blood mankind has the privilege to being freed from sin. Saul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). Do what to have sins washed away? Arise and be baptized!! God's law is still the same today as it was when Saul received that command. You, too, must arise and be baptized if you would have your sins washed away. Baptism places you into the death of Christ Jesus wherein the blood was shed. Read Romans 6, verses 1 through 17, especially verses 3 and 4, "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." Have you been baptized into Christ???

(6) MAN THINKS IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HE DOES IN RELIGION, so he concludes that God must feel the same way about it. Man says, "Just please the conscious, Just be sincere and honest. It doesn't make any difference what you do if you are honest and sincere." Now do not misunderstand me, surely man must be sincere and honest, he must be conscientious; but it takes more than these attributes. Listen to 2 John verse 9, "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of

Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son." Also, in Matthew 15:13, 14, "But he answered and said, Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not, shall be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit." Christ states in Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven." He continues in the next verse, " Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." The word "iniquity" is translated in some translations with the word "lawlessness." To work "iniquity" is to work without law, outside the realm of law. Jesus is saying that it does make a difference what man does. Unless we are doing what is within the scope of Christ's commandments, within His law, then we do not have His blessings. It truly does make a difference what man does, so says our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. One must DO the WILL OF GOD, not just anything. Listen to Paul in Romans 6:17, "But thanks be to God, that whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness." You see, man must OBEY FROM THE HEART the teaching of Jesus Christ. God sent his son Jesus into the world to prepare a way whereby man might please the Father. Jesus came bringing the truth. He very clearly states, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). This truth can make man free, as we noted a couple of weeks ago from John 8:32, but man must accept that truth, believe that truth and obey that truth. That same truth shall judge us in the judgment. Read John 12:48 for a clear statement of that truth. Yes, my friends, it does make a difference what one does in religion. Man may delude himself into thinking that what we do is of little consequence, but such is just not true. Yes, we must do

something, but that something must be what is approved of by the Lord.

Truly, it is a mistake to think that God is like unto man. God is so far above man that there is no comparison. Man must elevate himself to the level of God, strive to make our calling and election as Peter states in 2 Peter 1:10. God has given us a perfect pattern, a perfect standard. Let us study it, learn it, and then follow it.