

Perspectives

God Is . . .

In the 1950s, there was a television program entitled, “The Adventures of Superman.” The show centered, of course, on Superman. Each week, the program began by describing this superhero as being faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. These few descriptors were to be a window—a profile of sorts—into who Superman was and the power he possessed.

We often use one-word descriptors when identifying a noteworthy character trait in another. For example, “Jack is honest” or “Mary is kind.” This does not mean we think that this is their only character trait; it is only one of many attributes that help describe who they are. (Think about the words others would use to describe you.)

If you were to survey a typical congregation by asking each person to complete the sentence, “God is . . .,” the answers would be as varied as the people asked. You might hear one person say “God is holy,” while another might say “God is love.” Both would be right. God is holy . . . and is love . . . and is powerful . . . and is . . . Yet God cannot be defined by mere statements or phrases. However, His Word does give us a picture of who God is, what He does, and what His message is to humankind. The stories of Scripture help us understand God in a deeper way. The words used by people, and God himself, to describe God are a window into the character of God. For example, when God said, “You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am *holy*, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own” (Leviticus 20:26, emphasis added), we can proclaim the truth that God is holy. When 1 John 4:8 says, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love,” we can proclaim the truth that God is love.

During this quarter, we will gain a clearer understanding of who God is by focusing on specific attributes. We will also examine the life of Jesus from the book of Mark, shedding light on the ways Jesus fulfills His role as Lord.

As you study each passage, consider what it says about who God is and the ways this truth impacts your life and the world in which you live.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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