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The Aseity of God

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

Of God's many distinct attributes, one of the most difficult for finite human beings to come to terms with is His aseity, or self-existence. Unlike us, God has neither beginning nor end, and He is not dependent upon anyone or anything. In this message, as we consider God's limitless abundance and our own neediness, Dr. Lawson invites us to seek full satisfaction and delight in the one who is the limitless source of all things.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 90:1–4; Romans 11:33–36; 1 Corinthians 8:5–6; Revelation 4:8

TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss the implications of God's eternal and self-sustaining nature
2. To recognize our inability to comprehend God's boundless character
3. To invite Christians to take refuge in the all-sufficiency of God

QUOTATIONS

There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can compass and grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-content, and go our way with the thought, "Behold I am wise." But when we come to this master-science, finding that our plumb-line cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away . . . with the solemn exclamation, "I am but of yesterday, and know nothing."

—Charles Spurgeon

God was under no constraint, no obligation, no necessity to create. That He chose to do so was purely a sovereign act on His part caused by nothing outside of Himself, determined by nothing but His own mere good pleasure.

—A.W. Pink

LECTURE OUTLINE

I. God of Limitless Majesty

- A. One of the attributes that most distinguishes God from humanity is His aseity.
 - i. The word *aseity* comes from Latin roots meaning “from” and “self.”
 - ii. God’s aseity refers to His eternal self-existence.
- B. God has always been in existence.
 - i. In the beginning, God was already present (Gen. 1:1).
 - ii. God’s rule over the cosmos is everlasting (Ps. 93:2).
- C. Unlike human beings, God does not have a time or place of origin.

II. The Source of All Things

- A. The finite universe owes its existence to the infinite God.
- B. Before the creation of time and space, the triune God existed eternally without anything or anyone else in the universe.
 - i. Though alone, God was not lonely.
 - ii. The three persons of the Trinity enjoyed perfect satisfaction, fellowship, and delight in one another.
- C. God created the universe not by necessity but for His own glory.
 - i. God did not lack anything when He was alone, and He was not under any constraint or obligation to bring anything else into existence.
 - ii. God’s act of creation therefore displays His love and majesty.
- D. God is the source of all life.
 - i. Because He is completely self-existent, He is not caused by or dependent upon anything outside Himself (John 5:26).
 - ii. As His creatures, our physical life, spiritual life, and even eternal life with Him all have God as their source (Acts 17:28).
- E. All things are “from him and through him and to him” (Rom. 11:36).
 - i. That all things are “from” God expresses that He is the source of all things.
 - ii. That all things are “through” God expresses that He is the means of all things.
 - iii. That all things are “to” God expresses that He is the goal of all things.

III. Finite Children of an Infinite Father

- A. Because God is our source, we are made to live in fellowship with Him.
 - i. As Augustine articulated, our hearts are restless until they find rest in God.

- ii. The greater our understanding of who God is, the more our own hearts become filled with contentment and satisfaction in Him.
- B. Though we are insignificant compared to God, He invites us to bring all of our concerns to Him and trust Him with everything.
 - i. We often wonder whether He cares about the small things in our lives or whether He is only concerned with the big things.
 - ii. However, compared to His greatness and self-sufficiency, all things in our lives are small; yet, He invites us to come to Him anyway.
- C. Because God is all-sufficient, we can know that there is not a need in our lives that He cannot supply.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Scripture indicates that, before the creation of the universe, God's existence was characterized by _____.
 - a. Loneliness
 - b. Satisfaction
 - c. Angelic praise
 - d. Boredom
2. All human life, even the Christian's future immortality, depends on God as its source.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. The fact that God is not caused by or dependent upon anything outside of Himself is primarily an illustration of His _____.
 - a. Immutability
 - b. Omnipotence
 - c. Self-existence
 - d. Transcendence
4. The statement in Romans 11:36 that all things are "through" God chiefly communicates the idea that He is the _____ of all things.
 - a. Goal
 - b. Overseer
 - c. Source
 - d. Means
5. Because God is limitless and boundless, it is best to bring only the big things in our lives to His attention.
 - a. True
 - b. False

BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine that later today an unchurched friend asks you what you are learning in this study. How would you explain God's eternal and self-existent nature to that person?
2. Explain the statement "If anything exists, then something has always existed." What does this mean, and why is this important?
3. Did God need to create anything? Why did He bring the universe into existence?
4. Do you struggle with whether or not to bring "big" and "little" matters to God? How can a biblical understanding of God's aseity shape the way we present our needs and desires to God?