

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 8/31/09

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God is Spirit

Verse of the Week:

God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

A generation ago, Dodger outfielder Pete Reiser was known as a talented athlete who played with great enthusiasm. He was constantly leaping, diving, and sliding, often injuring himself by crashing into walls in pursuit of fly balls. It was common that Reiser played every game with great hustle and spirit.

Our God not only acts with great spirit, but He is spirit! God is not composed of matter, and He does not possess a physical nature. He is not the "Great Dodger in the Sky" or "the man upstairs." It is disrespectful to refer to Him in these terms. Because God is spirit, He is invisible. Because God is spirit, it is inaccurate to picture Him in our minds as an old man with a white beard. Because God is spirit, He is not restricted by the limitations of a human body. In Acts 17:24, Paul says that God does not live in shrines made by human hands. God is not restricted to any location or space. God has access to all of His creation. It is the invisibility of God that caused enemies of early Christianity to call Christians atheists. They were called atheists because they proclaimed God to be intangible and unseen.

However, make no mistake about the nature of Jesus Christ. Jesus was God in human flesh. For thirty-three years, God (the Son) became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was literally God in a body! He showed us what God is like! Men were able to see, touch, and relate to Him! There are many Scriptures concerning both His humanity and His deity. John 1:14 tells us that "the Word (Jesus) became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Hebrews 1:3 says that the Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Hebrews 2:14-17 elaborates further on the humanity of Jesus Christ. Some would assume that since God is spirit and is invisible, Jesus was not really God. But according to Scripture, He is God. Here is one of the mysteries of God: Jesus is fully God and fully man at the same time.

Several passages state that God has hands or feet. These passages are called anthropomorphisms, or "attempts to express the truth of God through human analogies". Also, there are cases where God appeared in physical form, particularly in the Old Testament (Genesis 32:24-32). These are considered theophanies or "temporary manifestations of God."

Our wonderful God is a spirit, a being of great magnitude—far greater than we can ever comprehend. To worship God in spirit and truth means to worship Him with the right attitude based upon right information. May we worship Him in our spirits, as well as with our minds, and may our worship be based upon the truth.

Time Out:

How do you picture God in your "mind's eye"? How are your perceptions inaccurate? How do these verses help?

- 1) John 1:18
- 2) I Timothy 1:17
- 3) I Timothy 6:15-16
- 4) I John 4:12
- 5) Colossians 1:15
- 6) John 1:14
- 7) John 8:58
- 8) Matthew 1:18-20