

**Series:** Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind  
**Title:** FIVE GREAT DIVIDES FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING  
**Text:** Philippians 3:20

## **Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind**

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

### **Matthew 22:36-40**

*<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

## **FIVE GREAT DIVIDES FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING**

### **The First Great Divide: Believers of God or non-believers of God**

#### **GOD or NO GOD**

**NO GOD:** Atheist, Agnostic, Ambivalent

- Do not believe
- Do not know
- Do not care
- They have no experience of anything beyond (naturalism) in their minds.

**GOD:** Acceptance, Agreement, Adopted

- Do believe but do not follow
  - Do accept but do not obey
  - Do align and do not stray
  - From acknowledging the supernatural loosely to witnessing it regularly
- Secular – no belief
  - Spiritual – belief but no behavior
  - Sacred – Holding to Holiness and the Sacred
    - These are important distinctions as we consider our theme over the next four weeks.

We lose the NO God people at this point.

- Nothing we say will be allowed to sway their decision.
- There are no stories, texts, experiences that will win in a debate
  - No authority in the believer has authority in their minds and behaviors
  - As we look over Social Issues and living on earth as citizens of heaven, know that the authorities we hold dear are not accepted.
    - Indeed, this series is not for them
    - It is only for them if they wish hear the rationale for decisions and positions that are taken.
    - To understand the REASONS, whether they agree or not

## **The Second Great Divide Deists and Theists**

### **THREE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE DEISTS AND THEISTS**

#### **IMPERSONAL OR PERSONAL GOD**

Created and is absent – Indisposed (Deism)

Created and is adding – Involved (Theism)

Created and is available – Intimate (Relationalism)

Created and is Absent – Indisposed (Deism)

- The Great Cause
- The Distant Hand of Providence
- The Work is Done – no more

Created and is Adding – Involved (Theism)

- Aware of creation's condition
- The Present hand of Providence
- Occasional adjustments in history

Created and is Available – Intimate (Relationalism)

- Engaged with Creation in an ongoing connection
- The Personal Hand of Providence
- You and Your Life matters
- Communicates with Creation daily
  - Eye is on the Sparrow, the Lilies of the field, the little children, etc.

## **HOW IS AN AVAILABLE GOD REVEALED?**

**Three ways we can know about God**

**Desire: Matters of the Heart**

- Happiness - We cannot help wanting to be happy.
- No matter how happy we are, we always try to be happier.
  - Is perfect happiness possible?
- Meaning - We cannot help wanting to have meaning.
  - Is my life an accident? Or am I here for a reason?
  - Does everything I say and do really matter in the long run?
- Immortality – We cannot help wanting to live.
  - Desire for immortality:
  - Human beings are afraid of death because they're not sure what comes afterward.
  - If they're happy, then they resent death, because it takes away everything they have.
  - Humans would like to live forever, if they knew they'd be happy.

### **Reason: Matters of the Head (Logic)**

- St. Thomas Aquinas five proofs
  - The First Way: God, the Prime Mover
    - The universe moves something started the movement
  - The Second Way: God, the Efficient Cause
    - Everything is caused by something God is that Cause
  - The Third Way: God, the Necessary Being
  - The Fourth Way: God, the Absolute Being
  - The Fifth Way: God, the Grand Designer
- The Science
  - Science provides many reasons for believing in God.
    - Science also shows how weird and mysterious the universe really is.
  - Intelligent Design
- The Math –
  - The "anthropic principle" says that the odds of the universe randomly forming in such a way as to make intelligent life possible are less than one in three trillion trillion.

Desire and Reason / the Heart and the Head

The Third way we can know about God is **revelation**

### **Revelation: Matters of the (Soul)**

#### **General Revelation**

- General revelation refers to the general truths that can be known about God through nature.
- God's existence and power can be clearly seen through observing the universe.
- The order, intricacy, and wonder of creation speak to the existence of a powerful and glorious Creator.
- It can be seen by all for it is readily visible.

General revelation and also special Revelation

### **Special Revelation**

- Special revelation is how God has chosen to reveal Himself through miraculous means. (supernatural to us...natural to God)

Deists hold to how God has revealed through Creation and Nature

Theists See God as Active in our Time through Special Revelation

- This is the case within many if not all faiths which believe in God
  - God is active or God is Not
  - God is available or God is not
- The Theists of all faith believe that God is available and reveals Himself through miraculous means.
  - Directly Communicated To Humanity With An Audible Voice
  - Lots were Used To Determine God's Will
  - Mediums, seers, oracles, prophets
  - Dreams and visions
  - Angelic Beings

## **The Third Great Divide**

### **Sacred Texts**

- **Special Revelation Continued**
    - **Sacred texts:** Dictations of God's words to humanity
      - Sacred meaning Holy or Set Apart
        - They tell of God
        - They tell of God's Design
        - They tell of God's Nature
        - They tell of God's Interaction with humanity
          - They tell of God's Intent for our existence: the way we live
  - God or Gods Revealed are Revealed in Texts
    - Notably in the lives of the writers of the texts
    - The stories of these encounters are written and then rewritten and passed down through generations
    - Some are oral stories told from father to son or mother to daughter
    - Some are written
      - Written as teaching
      - Written as history
      - Written as allegory
      - Written for revelation of God
- Is the text you say is sacred accepted by our group or rejected by our group?
  - Is there veracity in the historical preservation and critical analysis of the texts?
  - Are there such distinctions that both cannot be true?
  - Are there Statements within the sacred documents that suggest it to authoritative and inerrant or other?

## NBNB Club

### No Bible No Breakfast

### Too busy for the Manna, then you are too busy for the Meal

These questions are there to answer the desire, the logic, and the revelation dynamic of the availability and authority of God.... Whoever?

## **This is the Fourth Great Divide – The identity of GOD**

So there is General Revelation – seen in nature, mathematics, Science in reason, desire Special Revelation – engaged in speaking and directing through various forms and means.

The final way is through Personal Revelation: To Actually Reveal Himself to humanity

### **Personal Revelation**

- The God or Gods revealed are revealed in lives
  - People have experienced spiritual things
  - Miraculous things
  - They are attributed to their God or Gods
- Incarnations of God / theophanies
  - Polytheism – Avatars
    - Hinduism – Vishnu: 10 – 24 avatars
    - Buddhism – the Buddha and other “ascended teachers”
    - Paganism – Collective
      - Roman, Greek, Babylonian, Egyptian, Norse, etc.
  - Spiritism – Guides
  - NOTE: Each of these faiths all have the foundation of ONE God higher than and before all other Avatars
  - In Monotheism: Judaism, Christianity, Islam – ONE GOD
  - Physical appearances of God
    - Incarnate visits

I won't go into why my studies led me away from Hinduism, Buddhism, and Paganism, only to say that:

- Hinduism refers in the Upanishads of the GREAT THAT, which is being the highest authority, but never addressed.
  - In the Tibetan book of the dead, all is said and done, one is to look at all these gods and then release them, because they never were.
  - So they themselves point to a higher entity, not addressed and cast off their deities, for they never existed.
- Buddhism refers to a life of balance, and it cast off the many faces of God in Hinduism and states there is NO God though there are spiritual beings.
  - Ok... Spiritual beings...
    - History in many religions speak of such things.
    - My own history and life have witnessed such things.
    - But are these spiritual things gods?
    - Buddhism says there is NO GOD.

- Paganism – multiple gods
  - Anthropomorphism
  - YET ... They all point to a founder of these beings OR **HIGHEST BEING**
  - Norse
  - Greek
  - Babylonian
  - Egyptian –
- Spiritism – point to guides
  - But always refer to a **HIGHER ENTITY**
    - The Great White Spirit
    - Jainism
    - Animism
      - African
      - Central American

I am looking for information that reveals the character, nature of the ONE GOD, this HIGHEST BEING, I have found that information in the Jewish writings and then again in the Christian texts of the NEW Testament.

- The record of God's direct communication, His miracles, His message to the prophets, and the coming of Jesus Christ are found in the Bible.
  - However the Bible is not merely the record of the revelations from God.
  - The Scripture also contains additional truths and teachings for those who would regard it as sacred.

Thus the Bible is the record of different aspects of general revelation, special revelation and of personal revelation itself.

## Let's review:

### The Divides

1. God or no God
2. Personal or impersonal
3. Sacred Texts
4. Identity of God

### The Fifth Great Divide Orthodoxy or Apostasy

Regardless of faith, every person who falls into a Believer of that faith will also be divided among their own:

- LIVING to the measure of:
- The Authority they see in their written sacred texts
  - The Authority they place in the words of their prophets or God

## MEASURE OF AUTHORITY IN TEXT

The writings are narrative: historical stories for us to learn Practices

The writings are suggestive: allegorical stories for us to learn Principles

The writings are authoritative: the divine story for us to live Precepts

## MEASURE OF AUTHORITY IN WORDS OF PROPHETS OR GOD

What was said was for someone else for another time: NOT FOR ME

What was said is personal therefore I choose which words have authority: MY CHOICE

What was said is eternal and God will do what He said He will do: I WILL OBEY

Indifference

Instructive

Inspiration

Inerrancy

The Spiritual Apostate and the Sacred Adherent

The WORD Sacred – HOLY, set apart for Holiness

God is Holy and no ungodliness is in HIM

We are called to be HOLY!

**Every belief system has those who  
loosely acknowledge God and the Text  
and those who  
follow God and the Text**

I hope the breakdown of the Five Great Divides has given you a better understanding of where people you encounter are in their heart, head, and soul regarding conversations of the times, discussions on the topics of the day, positions on social issues and generally how we are to think, feel and live our lives.

- A Non believer does not believe in God so all you have to say will seem like foolishness
- A non-believer will not respond to your sacred texts because they do not believe in the divine.
- A deist will not be able to converse with a theist in a way that they are open to hearing of a personal God
- The choice of God or gods served and the authority of that voice and their texts will have an impact on every conversation and position
- Even those who claim the same faith, same god, and same text will walk in Orthodoxy or Apostasy.

## **This series is for those who:**

- Claim to believe in God
- Believe God is a personal God
- Claim to be a follower of that God
- Believe that the God of the BIBLE is the ONE true GOD
- Claim to hold the BIBLE as a revelation of that GOD

It is clarify the Line between those who claim Christian Spirituality and those who walk in that which is Sacred in Christian living.

### **I want to address orthodoxy and apostasy in the Church**

- I am speaking to the Church.
- The Body of Christ.
- **Those who claim to believe in the God of the OLD and NEW Testament**

### **Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind**

#### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

*<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

#### **Philippians 3:20**

*<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

#### **Ephesians 2:19**

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ...*

#### **1 Peter 1:4**

*... to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

#### **Luke 22:29-30**

*... and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

#### **John 14:15**

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*

## **Questions to be answered about being a Citizen of Heaven**

**Isn't everyone at some time going to be a citizen of heaven?**

- No, only those who have confessed their sin and repented.

- No, only those who have died to sin as they become alive in Christ
- No, only those who have been saved by grace through faith.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

*<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- Enmity - the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.
- Dissensions – wrath, seditions, heresies
- Strife - angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.
- Rivalries – (contentions)- dissensions factions, backbiting
- Envy, jealousy
- Fits of anger – short fuse

No! Not everyone enters heaven and are citizens of heaven.

### **Are there rights of a citizen that are not available to non-citizens?**

- Yes and No
- Yes, as a new creation, we have access to the Holy Spirit
- Yes, as a child of God, we are joint heirs to the riches of heaven
- Yes, we have power over the enemy in the Name of Jesus
- Yes, we have access to heaven that a non-citizen does not have
- No, when it comes to OUR RIGHTS, WE HAVE NONE.
  - we give up our rights and our lives to submit to HIS Will and HIS Way

### **Are there restrictions on a citizen of heaven that are not imposed on a non-citizen?**

- Yes, All of them
  - Those who have not been saved are not required to follow any restrictions.
  - They are not judged by their individual sins. They will be judged by the sin nature that they choose, rather than choosing to be a disciple of Jesus.
  - The only gain or benefits a non-citizen receives by following God's restrictions are a better life and a better society.

### **What are the mandates of a Citizen of Heaven?**

## **You serve the King.**

### **John 18:36**

*Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."*

### **Matthew 7:21**

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

- You are not the KING, the JUDGE, the BOSS
- HE ALONE IS KING
  - Your compassion for sin does not eliminate the judgment to come
    - He is King – The Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah says differently
  - Your condemnation of the sinner does not eliminate the judgment to come.
    - He is the King – how can you love God and hate your brother?
- We are not fighting for this world
- He is King over ALL
- Every knee shall bow!
- Subject all things under HIM

## **You represent the Kingdom.**

### **John 17:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

- Not of the world
- But sent into the world
- You have to live here.... But this is not your home or your country

### **2 Corinthians 5:20**

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

## **You live by the Instructions of GOD.**

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God[a] may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- The BIBLE is like the constitution – greater than

- It is be to followed to the letter
- You believe the texts or you do not
- You obey the text or you do not

This is the dividing line that breaks my heart. I see complete apostasy and heresy being lived out by those who think they being in line with god..... But they have walked away from the TRUTH of the Scripture. It is no longer the authority.

They feel if we do not condone it is hatred

They believe as the world believes for the sake of kindness yet live a lie in God's Way.

### **You do not conform to this world**

#### **Romans 12:1-2**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Live holy
- Not conformed
- Transformed
- And renewed mind

#### **Matthew 5:20**

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **SO WE LIVE IN THIS WORLD BUT ARE NOT OF THE WORLD**

Some of you all are living as apostates..... You walk in heresies..... You have totally conformed to the World.

Do you Believe but do not follow

Do you Accept but do not obey

Do Align and do not stray

Are you Secular – believe but follow the world

Are you Spiritual – believe but no wrong behavior

Are you Sacred – behave like the citizen you are.

Hold to Holiness and the Sacred

### **HOW DO WE HANDLE HEAVENLY DECISIONS WHEN WE LIVE BY THE WORLD'S STANDARD?**

YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION MUST DETERMINE YOUR POSITION ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND EARTHLY MATTERS

**Luke 6:46 ESV**

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

In the next several weeks I am going to be looking at the major Social Issues of our Time and Speak to them in light of the Scripture.

I will only be bringing Scripture to the table.

- SCRIPTURE WILL BE THE AUTHORITY

**I realize that:**

The Secular Atheist will condemn it as foolishness

The Secular Agnostic will cancel it as false

The Spiritual Apostate will confuse it as unfeeling

The Sacred Adherent will say God commands it as fact

**CHALLENGE**

DETERMINE THAT YOUR POSITIONS WILL BE  
ESTABLISHED BY THE SACRED WORD OF GOD