

# FALSE NOTIONS CONCERNING GOD

By Keith Greer

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.’” {Acts 17:22,23} Paul was preaching to heathen people in Athens, Greece. They had no knowledge of the true and living God. Unfortunately, in our own day, there are still people who have false knowledge about God. Some think of Him as:

**Physical and local.** “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” {John 4:24} Many people believe that God is a physical being. Some teach that we are all gods, and that we can eventually move up the ladder and be on the same level as God Himself. God is a spiritual, eternal being without beginning or end. Jesus explained this great truth following His own resurrection. “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” {Luke 24:39} God is not human!

**Unknowable.** “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” {1 John 2:3,4} Some would have us believe that we cannot come to know God. Yet, the Scriptures make it very clear that He requires us to know Him. “But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?” {Galatians 4:8,9} Those who do not know God have chosen not to know Him! “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” {Romans 1:21}

**Afar off.** “So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’” {Acts 17:27,28} Some believe that God is far away from us and, therefore, cannot be of help here. This is foolish thinking. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” {James 4:8} Many feel that God is far away because they cannot see or touch Him. Yet, if we look for it, we see evidence of God all around us. We can talk with God at anytime and in any place and know for certain that He hears us.

**Needs something from us.** “Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.” {Acts 17:25} Let's get this straight; we need God; He needs nothing from us! God knows exactly what He's doing, what He's seeking to achieve, and how He'll bring it about. He doesn't need our helping hands. {Isaiah 55:8-11} Why would the One who, in six literal days, spoke the world into existence need anything from those He created? Sadly, many are of the mindset that mankind gives meaning to God's existence. Such reasoning lacks the true concept

of Deity. God created all things to benefit and help us. How could we possibly come to accept the notion that God needs something we have to make His life richer and fuller?

Friend, do you know the true and living God? \*\*\*