

I'll never be able to unsee God (1/30/22)

Sermon Description: "I'll never be able to unsee that." Most of the time this comment stems from something intriguing or, perhaps, repulsive. But the point is that whatever you saw, it changed you. The same is true when we see God for who he is. It changes us. When that happens, we will never be able to unsee him!

Main Passage: Ephesians 1:3-14

Title: I'll never be able to unsee God

Topics: Attributes of God > God as Superior

Tags: sight, praise, trust, blessed, worthy

Questions to consider:

- Do you see God as he is or more for who you want him to be?
- Do you believe God, in all who he is, is trustworthy and praiseworthy?

PSA: On HopeCC app, click on Downtown and the icon which says "Message Slides" to access slides for today's sermon.

Introduction: "I can't unsee that." Most of the time this comment stems from something intriguing or, perhaps, repulsive. But the point is that whatever you saw, it changed you. The same is true when we see God for who he is. It changes us. And that's my hope for today's message. That we won't be able to unsee the God described in Eph 1.

Week #1: Ephesians 1:1–2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Week #2: I'm okay in Jesus. Consider that 12 times in this passage and 160 times in the New Testament the phrase "In Christ" is used. It's critical to understanding our relationship with God. We are called to be "in him." Far more important than what we do, whether we attend church, or if we serve in the community, we must be in Christ.

Week #3 (This week)

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶to the praise of his glorious

grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

The passage begins, “**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” This is more literally saying “praise-worthy God.” There's no verb here. It's implied. So we could say, “Blessed be God” or “Praise be to God” or just “The blessed God. And the rest of today's passage is to highlight the numerous ways that God is blessed, that God is worthy to be praised.

And it is absolutely a refute of a cultural mantra of the day: Great is Artemis of the Ephsians. Recall from week 1:

Acts 19:28

²⁸When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Acts 19:34

³⁴But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Paul is unequivocal as he starts this letter, “Great is our God!”

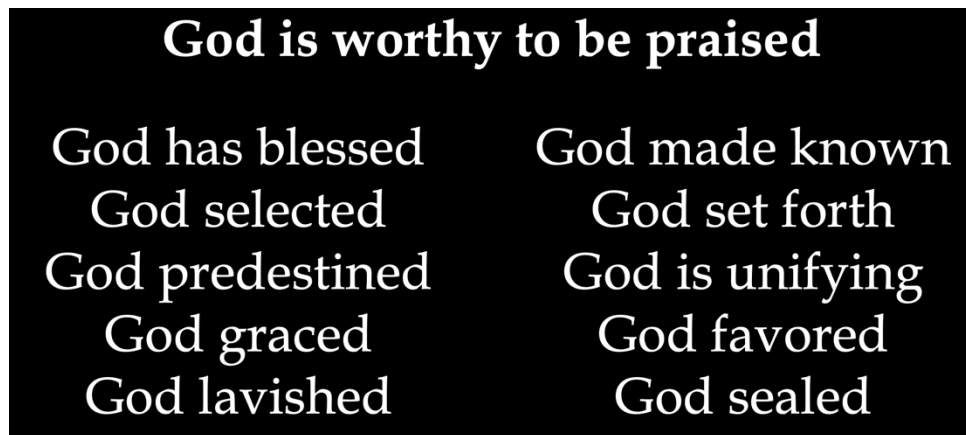
And what we want to do with the rest of today's study is see that God is great. To not unsee that. To be impacted and changed by that reality. Great is our God. See it. And never unsee it.

Consider the 10 ways by which God is depicted as the subject and how he acts. He is the principal character. He's the hero. It's about him first and foremost. Always.

1. **(The blessed) God has blessed** - ³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
2. **(The blessed) God selected** - ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
3. **(The blessed) God predestined** - In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—
4. **(The blessed) God graced** - ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
5. **(The blessed) God lavished** - ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us.

6. **(The blessed) God made known** - With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure,
7. **(The blessed) God set forth** - which he purposed in Christ ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—
8. **(The blessed) God is unifying** - to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
9. **(The blessed) God favored** - ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.
10. **(The blessed) God sealed** - ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Consider all the works the Lord has done!!



Now, I shared previously that we don’t want to unsee these things. We want to see God for who he is and be changed. Having a right view of God changes us. Don’t unsee these truths. Don’t forget them. Don’t move on from them. Behold your God!! How great is our God!!!

Unfortunately, in our frailty, in our sin, in our selfishness, in our pride, in our hurt, we turn away from these things. I want to share four ways we get sidetracked. Each of these has their own flavor but the thread which runs through each is we put ourselves above God.

ME/US

Over

The blessed God described in Eph. 1

1. One way we do this is by determining whether or not God is praiseworthy based on how he carries out these actions. If he does well (according to our measures), we deem his fit

for praise and we will praise him. If his actions disagree with our thoughts, then we won't.

2. Another way is we will often ignore or exact actions associated with God. If we don't like, for example, that God chooses. We'll simply ignore that the bible says he does that. Or if the word "predestination" comes with a lot of baggage, we might (incorrectly) believe that God does not predestine.
3. A third way is that we will prioritize what comes as a result of God's action. This to say, what matters most is the direct object or indirect object in the sentence. Does God act favorably to the right kind of people. The "right kind" of people is usually me, my family and friends, my tribe, my workplace, my finances, my political party, my country, etc.
4. The final way is we simply remove God from the equation. We become the king or queen of the story. It's all about what we can do, how we act, how we bless, etc. Essentially, "Great our we!" "Great am I!"

The passage is clear, "Great is our God!" See him. Don't unsee these truths. Trust him. Praise him. Enjoy him.

But, what if you, as a Christian, as one seeking to trust God in all things, struggle to accept the description of God in this passage?

Jackie Hill-Perry has a great line in her new book, *Holier Than Thou*, "If God is holy, then he can't sin. If God can't sin, then he can't sin against me. If he can't sin against me, shouldn't that make him the most trustworthy being there is?"

With that in mind, I ask these two questions:

1. Do you see God as he is or more for who you want him to be?
2. Do you believe God, in all who he is, is trustworthy and praiseworthy?

Hope Community Church Downtown, I pray the eyes our hearts would be opened to see God for who he is. He is great!

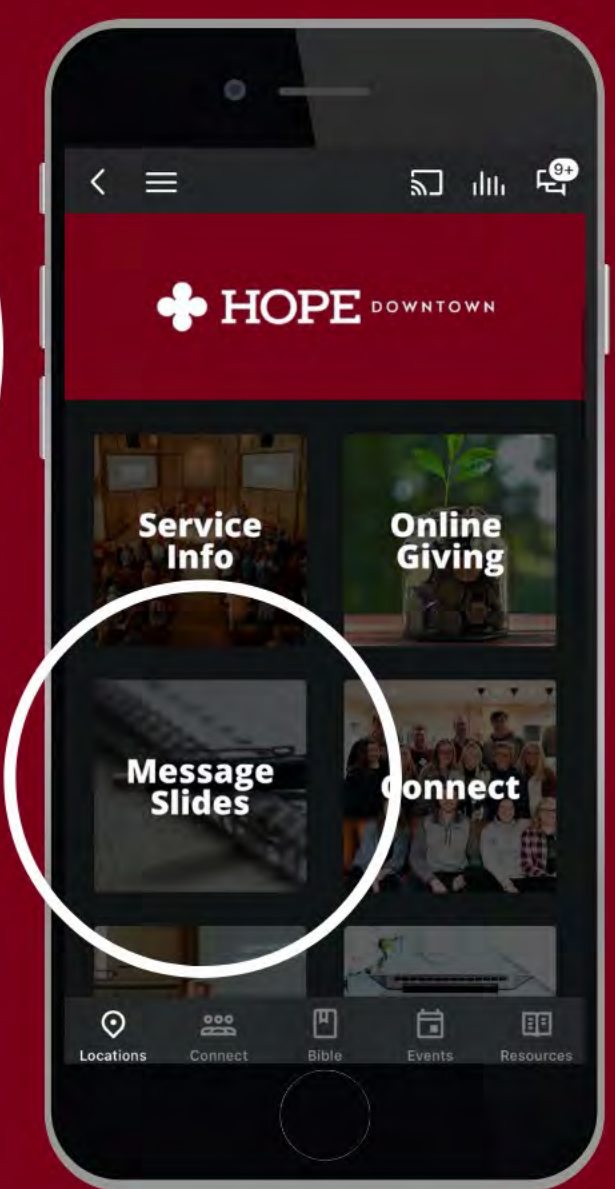
"GREAT IS OUR GOD!!!"

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11. Why is only one letter lowercase?



6. "In *Super Mario Bros.* for the NES, the clouds are the same graphic as the bushes, just a different color."

—[BigjobsDunsmall](#)



8. Is it a person throwing out their trash, or a person giving up on juggling?





DRUNK
OCTOPUS
WANTS TO
FIGHT!

8. "The Vans logo looks like the square root of the answer."

—[DreadPirate616](#)



17. "The 'C' logo for the Chicago Bears is asymmetrical. The bottom juts out more than the top."



Face-Swap Adam Driver and Keannu Reeves
and you just feel confused and slightly lost...



**ADAM DRIVER
LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE TRIED
TO DRAW KEANU
REEVES FROM
MEMORY**

EATLIVER.COM



Ephesians

The opening of the letter

Ephesians 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week: In Christ

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

“I can’t unsee that.”

How the “bratwurst of ok-ness” is made



God is worthy to be praised

Ephesians 1:3-14

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Literally, “praise-worthy God”

“Blessed be God”

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God is worthy to be praised

Acts 19:28

²⁸When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Acts 19:34

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Subject -verb

God - does

(The blessed) God has blessed

Ephesians 1:3

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

(The blessed) God selected

Ephesians 1:4

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

(The blessed) God predestined

Ephesians 1:5

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

(The blessed) God graced

Ephesians 1:6

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

(The blessed) God lavished

Ephesians 1:7-8a

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

(The blessed) God made known

Ephesians 1:8b-9a

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

(The blessed) God set forth

Ephesians 1:9b-10a

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

(The blessed) God is unifying

Ephesians 1:10b

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

(The blessed) God favored

Ephesians 1:11-12

¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

(The blessed) God sealed

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

God is worthy to be praised

God has blessed

God selected

God predestined

God graced

God lavished

God made known

God set forth

God is unifying

God favored

God sealed

God is worthy to be praised

God has blessed

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God made known

God set forth

God is unifying

God favored

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ME/US

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God made known

God set forth

God is unifying

God favored

God sealed

ME/US

God is worthy to be praised

God has blessed

God ~~selected~~

God ~~predestined~~

God graced

God lavished

God made known

God set forth

God is unifying

God ~~avored~~

God sealed

ME/US

God is worthy to be praised

God has blessed _____.

God selected _____.

God predestined _____.

God graced _____.

God lavished _____.

ME/US

I/we are worthy to be praised

I/we have blessed _____.

I/we selected _____.

I/we predestined/decided _____.

I/we graced _____.

I/we lavished _____.

God is worthy to be praised

God has blessed

God selected

God predestined

God graced

God lavished

God made known

God set forth

God is unifying

God favored

God sealed

If God is holy, then he can't sin.
If God can't sin, then he can't sin against me.
If he can't sin against me, shouldn't that make him
the most trustworthy being there is?

Jackie Hill Perry - Holier Than Thou



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