

# We Have Been Taught Not to Discern - Part 6

by Andrew Strom

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*We need to know the true God and the true gospel in order to speak truth and draw closer to Him.*

**Duration:** 9:59

**Scripture:** Proverbs 9:10, Isaiah 6:1-5, Malachi 3:6, Romans 1:18, Hebrews 13:8

**Topics:** "God's Character", "Gospel Message"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the need to understand the true nature of God, including His wrath and mercy, and the importance of preaching the real Gospel that involves salvation from God's wrath through Jesus. It challenges the modern perception of a friendly, non-wrathful God and calls for a return to a deeper understanding of God's character and the Gospel message.

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## Transcript

We're not getting anyone converted. We don't know what conversion is. We don't know how to send people to the cross.

Our preaching doesn't do it anymore. Our preaching sends them to selfish land where they try and get all that they can out of God, where God is there to fulfill their happiness and there and their whole desire going to church is to get something for themselves. It's not to glorify God.

It's not to find out, you know, it's not to really draw close to God. Most people, if they could draw a little bit close to God, would be utterly frightened and run away. Because God is not that big fairy tale guy in the sky.

He's not a warm fuzzy kind of guy at all. We have to be saved from his wrath. We were talking about that earlier.

We have to be saved from his wrath by Jesus shielding us. Otherwise, we're toast. That's what God is like.

God is God is far from friendly. Did you know that? Did you know that God deliberately hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he could destroy him. Did you know that? God actually did that.

We say, oh yeah, but God's changed. He's a New Testament God now. I say God never changed.

He says, I'm the Lord. I change not. The Bible says Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, hasn't changed a bit.

He's still in the wiping out business. Still in the wiping out business. Still in the sending plagues business.

He's just, he's called time out. And he said, okay, we're going to try a different thing. We'll try and see if the people will accept a shield that will shield them from my wrath.

See, if I send my son to take a terrible punishment on their back, will they accept this shield? Will they accept it? And he finds most people don't want it, including in the church. Most people don't even hear about it. Most people don't know what they're being saved from.

Where do we ever hear a sermon in church today of what we're being saved from? The wrath of God. Most people never want to hear about a God like that. They say, no, surely that can't be God.

No, I don't believe in a God like that. Well, I'm sorry. Because, because you don't believe in a God like that, you can't draw close to him and grow to love him.

You can't. You can't develop a love relationship with God because you never feared him. People say, why do I need to fear God to get love? That's the first thing.

Second, fear of the Lord is the beginning of all stuff. We say, yeah, this can't be Christianity. What are you preaching here? Isn't God a God of love? Well, heck, go watch him wiping out nations and tell me.

I don't know. Go watch Paul the Apostle smiting the, you know, Elimus with blindness. Tell me.

Go watch Peter saying to Ananias and Sapphira, you know, saying to the wife. She doesn't even know her husband's dead, just been killed by God. She doesn't even know.

He says, the same, the same power is about to wipe you out. The same for the same reason. What kind of God is this? They say, we don't want a God like that.

Yes, that's the exact point. We want advertising Jesus. We want advertising Jesus.

We want Santa Claus God, who only promises blessings, who only gives and gives. We want Santa Claus God and advertising Jesus. That's who we want.

We don't want the actual real things. They would frighten us if we could see them. If we could see Jesus in action actually preaching to the scribes and Pharisees, we'd be shocked and horrified at the things he would say.

He'd preach them today, no sweat. People would want to throw him off the cliff today, not a problem. I've got no doubt about it.

Here's the thing that we all face. It's a very serious thing. Are we going to invite this God down into the nation of America today? Are we going to stand up and speak today, words that just come out of Jesus' mouth about such things as salvation and discipleship and money? Can we find within ourselves these five little loaves and go start preaching and giving them to the people? Because God will multiply them.

He really will. He's suffering from the lack of people who will open their mouth. Did you know that? And there's not enough prayer.

And a lot of people, if they're praying for God to come down, let's come to a close here. A lot of people, if they're praying for God to come down, they don't know what they're asking for. And God so desires the people who know him.

Do you know that God is such a loving God if you can be founded in the fear of the Lord? The love of God, the glory of God. Isaiah saw the glory of God. High and lifted up, he saw his throne room.

He was so incredibly fearful as a being and yet he felt so drawn to God. This is God. I desire to know this God.

I want to preach this God. I don't want to preach a fairy tale. I don't want to represent a Christianity that really doesn't exist.

I want the real God. Yes, he's very angry at sin, but yes, he's so merciful. He sent his own son to die.

We embrace this God. Can we preach the real gospel? Are we willing to stand up and speak truth? Can we get the five little loaves and lay them before the people and say, You know what? I am but a child, but my God is great. That's all he's calling for.

Do you know tomorrow night what I'm wanting to preach? Because we have two nights here. I want to preach the gospel tomorrow night like you may never have heard before. The gospel that I believe the apostles preached.

I want to show you what it was. I want to tell you, do you know what happens between awakenings? We lose the gospel and we've lost the gospel. I get people telling me this all the time.

Here's what happens to me all around the place. I'll preach the gospel and old ladies who were around in the 70s and Pentecostal and the brethren, if I'm in England, you know, the brethren or whatever. They come up to me and say, You know what? We haven't heard that for 20 or 30 years.

Happens all the time. We haven't heard that in 20 or 30 years. I want to say to you, we don't know what the gospel is.

We never preach like the apostles. I've never gone, apart from the guys that are starting to rise up now, Paul Washer and so on. You can never hear the gospel.

You can go across the whole of America from church to church to church and never hear the gospel preached. And we all think we know what it is. That's the shocking thing.

If you ask Christians, if you ask church people, they say, Yeah, we know what the gospel is. I say to you, we don't ever hear it preached. Never.

Tonight, some of what I'm touching on tonight is all gospel stuff. It's just God. It's the character of God.

Do we ever hear God characterized in this way? No, we never hear that. Our God is not a wrathful God in any way today. The modern God, no.

Never. I want to say to you, if He's not a wrathful God, Jesus didn't have to die. None of it makes any sense.

If He's not a wrathful God, none of it makes any sense. All of it, we just throw it all out. We're left with like two scraps of scripture.

Throw the book away. We don't really know God. Those are the facts.

We don't know what the gospel is. I wonder how many people really want to know. That's another key question.

We need to pray. Do you know what I'm going to pray tonight? I'd like, please stand with me. Only put up your hands and, you know, and agree with this prayer.

If you really, really want to draw closer to the real God today. Because I know that there's quite a few people that don't. They don't want the fear of the Lord and they don't even want to get to the love of a God like that.

They just don't want any part of this, you know. What I want to pray for us all tonight is that we would know the true God. We would know what He's really like and why we need to be saved from the wrath of the Lord.

And also just that we would know a new moving in our hearts by the Spirit that we would start to speak truth. So, if you agree with those two things. And please consider carefully before you raise your hands to God.

Because I believe we're going to pray this prayer before God tonight. I'm going to pray for those two things. For all of us who are raising our hands to Him.

That we'd really know Him as He truly is. That we'd know the true Gospel and we'd begin to speak the truth in a more powerful way than we had done.

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