

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – February 17 “The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

CHAPTER 6 The Self-sufficiency Of God

And [God] is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else (Acts 17:25).

For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself (John 5:26).

1) Tozer prays: “If nothing is necessary to Thee, then no one is necessary, and if no one, then not we. Thou dost seek us though Thou does not need us. We seek Thee because we need Thee, for in Thee we live and move and have our being. Amen.” **How does it make you feel when you hear that God does not need you? Does it affect your thoughts about God?**

What Tozer is saying above is not necessarily common teaching in the Church today. Please read the following excerpts from two sermons I found online and one popular book:

SERMON: “God needs understanding. God needs partners. There is the key. God needs partners. God needs us. God needs our compassion. Jesus saw God’s need.”

SERMON: Mark 11:1-3 - "THE LORD HAS NEED OF YOU" (sermon title)

“Have we realized that the Lord needs us? There are people whom God cannot touch, because He does not have a finger to touch them. Maybe others will die without having reached them and you are the only one who can reach them - maybe your neighbours. God needs you....”

(The actual quotation from Mark 11:3 reads, “The Lord has need of *it*,” referring to a “colt” not human beings.)

POPULAR BOOK: “You [woman] are meant to fill a place in the heart of God no one and nothing else can fill. He longs for you,” *Captivating* by John and Stasi Eldredge, p.120. (This is a perverse statement in light of 1 John 4:8 which clearly teaches that the Trinity is eternally and infinitely complete in His love!)

“So lofty is our opinion of ourselves that we find it quite easy, not to say enjoyable, to believe that we are necessary to God.” A.W. Tozer

If you don't have a copy of Tozer's book, you can read it online: www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm

“It is morally imperative that we purge from our minds all ignoble concepts of the Deity and let Him be the God in our minds that He is in His universe.” A.W. Tozer

“The Man Jesus as He appeared in the flesh has been equated [by many in the Church] with the Godhead and all His human weaknesses and limitations attributed to the Deity.” A.W. Tozer

2 a) **Is there anything we can give to God that He does not already have? What about our love, our service, our money, our time, our lives?**

“God has a voluntary relation to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself. His interest in His creatures arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need those creatures can supply nor from any completeness they can bring to Him who is complete in Himself.”

A.W. Tozer

“The God who worketh all things surely needs no help and no helpers.”

A.W. Tozer

2 b) **Does the Truth found in Romans 10:14-15 contradict what Tozer states above?**

3 a) Tozer writes, “Nothing is complete in itself but requires something outside itself in order to exist. All breathing things need air; every organism needs food and water. Take air and water from the earth and all life would perish instantly....To God alone nothing is necessary.” **Do you find joy in supplying the needs of others (even the plants and animals God has put you in charge of)? Where does that joy come from? Why is it that we sometimes find no joy in meeting others’ needs?**

3 b) Let me suggest to you that there is possibly no better way to be like Father in Heaven than to care for others (including plants, and animals such as pets). **Please read Matthew 5:44-48. What was the *very first* charge God ever gave man?**

4) Tozer remarks, “The problem of why God created the universe still troubles thinking men.” **Why would it trouble some people? Do you agree with Pastor Tozer’s statement here?**

*May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in His works (Psalm 104:31).*

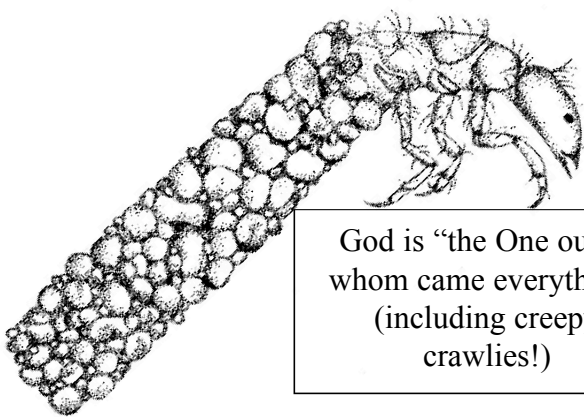
5) A.W. Tozer says, “were every man on earth to become atheist, it could not affect God in any way.” **How are we to understand this (see Tozer’s comment directly below)?**

“To believe in Him adds nothing to His perfections; to doubt Him takes nothing away.”

6) Pastor Tozer also states, “This truth [God’s self-sufficiency], while a needed rebuke to human self-confidence, will when viewed in its Biblical perspective lift from our minds the exhausting load of mortality and encourage us to take the easy yoke of Christ and spend ourselves in Spirit-inspired toil for the honor of God and the good of mankind.” **Do you agree? Why or why not?**

“For the blessed news is that the God who needs no one has in sovereign condescension set Himself to work by and in and through His obedient children.” Tozer

(Addendum) At the beginning of the chapter, Tozer remarks, “All life is in and from God, whether it be the lowest form of unconscious life....” **But how could the creature below possibly glorify God or reflect His character in any way?!**



God is “the One out of whom came everything”
(including creepy crawlies!)

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My ways,"
declares the LORD." (Isaiah 55:8).