

J. Paul Reno

WHO IS THE TRUE GOD?

By J. Paul Reno Pastor and Author

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"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

(II Tim. 3:16, 17)

DEDICATION

"I want to dedicate this book to Edgar Thomas, Bob Doom and Ray Bearden who preached evangelistically, presenting the True God to both saint and sinner. I want to also dedicate it to the many pastors, missionaries, evangelists and Bible teachers who faithfully present the True God to this confused and compromising generation. May their efforts deliver us from this form of godliness that lacks reality."

Pastor J. Paul Reno



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INTRODUCTION

We don't have to go far in the Bible before we find a false idea of God. In **Genesis chapter 3**, the devil told Eve she could become like the gods. She fell for that temptation. A lot of people fall for the temptation to become like the gods they worship--false gods instead of the true God. I John 5:21 states, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." We are to stay away from that which is false--physical, mental, or emotional idolatry that pictures a god who is not the true God. We want the true God, and we need to know who He is.

Who is the true God? This issue is becoming bigger and bigger in America. So-called Christian groups no longer agree on Who God is. America is swarming with cults that we can't call Christian. Religions are flooding into our country presenting a god who is different than the true God. The Mormons say that Jesus is the brother of the devil and that God the Father used to be a man like we are. Most Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus was an angel. The Christian Scientists believe that love is God--not God is love. If you have love, that is God. All these groups have a different god than the true God of the Bible. The Muslims say Allah is God. Their Allah is

not the true God of the Bible. Yet, we have people who act like he is the same God but just worshipped a little differently. The true God is different than the multitudes of gods of the Hindus or the gods of the Buddhists and Confucians.

The true God is portrayed from **Genesis 1:1** all the way to the end of **Revelation**. If we read through the Bible once a year, we get one opportunity to see the entire portrayal. However, God put the details we need to get started in five short chapters. We can read **I John** through in fifteen or twenty minutes. We can easily read it twice a day and day after day to let the truth sink in. **Who is the true God?**

The book of **I John** has two major themes. They are laid out for us in **I John 5:20**,

"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

One major theme is "eternal life." We can study through the book of I John and find 12 marks or evidences of eternal life. These marks can be used to

evaluate whether a person really has eternal life. Many say they have it, but have no evidences of it. **I John** was written that we might know what eternal life is and whether we have it.

The other major theme of I John is "This is the true God." When God says, "This is the true God," He implies that all other gods are false. Many people have a false god. They may think they know Who God is, but they really don't. Some have misunderstood, and others have been taught falsehoods about God. Theirs is a wrong view of God or a misshapen or partial view of God. They get into all kinds of trouble because they don't know Who God is. We need to know Who the true God is. I John is a short book that speaks eloquently and repeatedly on this subject. It makes it very clear that there is a difference between the true God and all other gods. What are the marks of distinction so that we can defend ourselves against error and help others to know Who the true God is?

J. Paul Reno

