

June 15/16, 2024  
"God Is Not Needy"  
Pastor Aaron Buer



## **SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.**

### **2024 Challenge:** Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

**June:** Read Psalms to see how situations and events point to Jesus

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## Day 1 [Acts 17:24-30](#) | God Is Not Needy

**The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything.** Acts 17:24-25a

The Apostle Paul is invited to speak at the Areopagus in Athens (also called Mars Hill). This is the place where leading philosophers gathered to discuss and debate the nature of life and religion. Paul speaks of the God they do not know, the one true God who created heaven and earth. He tells them that God is not served by human hands and does not need anything. This would have stood out to those listening because the Greek gods were very needy.

The one true God is not needy. The theological word is *aseity*, which means "out of himself." In other words, God has all he needs within himself. He has no physical, spiritual or relational needs. He does not need anything from anyone. This can be a difficult concept to wrap our minds around, but it has significant implications for our lives. This week, we will consider just a few implications, including how God is eternally happy and the source of life. We will also see that the proper response is to worship the one true God.

**TODAY:** Journal about the implications of the aseity of God. Try to wrap your mind around the fact that God does not need anything from anyone, including you, yet he wants you. Then consider what implications this could have on you, your life and your relationship with him.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Psalm 118](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus said verses 22-23 point to himself ([Matthew 21:42](#)).

## Day 2 [Matthew 3:16-17](#) | God Is Happy

**As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."** Matthew 3:16-17

As Jesus is about to begin his public ministry, he is baptized by John the Baptist. As he came out of the water, we get a unique glimpse into the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Trinity appear in this scene, and we get a picture of their eternal relationship. From eternity past, God has existed in relationship. Within that relationship is perfect and infinite love, joy, contentment, peace and happiness. God lacks nothing. His happiness is infinite and eternal and does not depend on anyone or anything else.

We're not like that. We don't have perfect happiness and are more needy than we would like to admit. What's more, we often seek to meet our needs and find happiness in the wrong places. We think a relationship, house, car, achievement, job or experience will bring us lasting joy and happiness. All the while, what we really seek is God himself—to know him and experience some of what he experiences all the time. Lasting joy and happiness are found in the source of beauty, love, joy, peace, contentment and happiness.

**TODAY:** Read [Psalm 23](#) and take note of the way David describes his relationship with God. Consider that God does not need anything and how that might influence the way David describes him in this Psalm.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Psalm 35](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how the suffering in this Psalm points to Jesus's suffering on the cross.

## Day 3 [Acts 17:26-28](#) | God Is Life

**"For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."** Acts 17:28

As Paul continues to describe the one true God to the people of Athens, he talks about how creation and all of history are not random. God created the world and orchestrated history so people might reach out to him. He wants people to reach out, but not because he is lonely or lacking in anything. He wants people to find him because he loves people, and to find him is an invitation into life, joy and blessing.

Every human relationship is, to some degree, selfish. A relationship with God is different. He does not need us, and yet he wants us for our benefit. He wants us to experience life and joy in him because he is generous. The ultimate expression of his generosity and the ultimate invitation to a life of joy is through Jesus Christ. God sent his son to become a human being and give his life for us. Jesus's death on the cross shows the drastic lengths God was willing to go to for us to have a relationship with him.

**TODAY:** Consider the generosity of God and his willingness to send Jesus to die for you. If you have not accepted the free gift of salvation, consider doing so today. Pray like this: "God, thank you for loving me and sending your son to die for my sins. I repent of my sins and give you my life today." If you are a follower of Jesus, pray a prayer of gratitude for all that he has done for you.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Psalm 69](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how verses 19-21 point to Jesus's experience on the cross.

## Day 4 [Romans 11:35-12:1](#) | Worship

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.** Romans 12:1

Paul speaks to the philosophers in Athens about how the one true God does not need people to serve him ([Acts 17:35](#)). Later, in his letter to the Romans, Paul hits on a similar theme. He tells the Jesus community in Rome that the right response to God is to offer their entire lives to him. He calls this true and proper worship. True and proper worship lays everything at the feet of the one who is worthy.

It is easy to think that we worship God because he needs it, as if he is somehow happier or more satisfied when we worship him. However, this is not true. He does not need our worship. We do. We were created for worship, and we all worship something. It could be money, status, beauty, achievement, etc. None of these are worthy of our worship, and it's only when we worship God that we experience life. The worship Paul describes goes

beyond singing songs. True and proper worship is to live for God, and to find our purpose, value and identity in God.

**TODAY:** We each worship something. Memorize [Romans 12:1](#) and bring it to mind over the coming days. May it remind you of the mercy of God and invite you to view your very life as worship to God who is worthy.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Psalm 41](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how verse 9 points to the betrayal Jesus suffered.

## Day 5 [Acts 17:29-30](#) | Repent

**Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.** Acts 17:29-30

As Paul starts to wrap up his speech at the Areopagus, he tells the people of Athens they need to repent. In their ignorance, they worship false gods and idols of stone. The people were devoted to worshipping gods like Athena, Zeus and others. Things were different now. Since Paul told them the truth about God, they should repent and change the direction of their lives and the ways they live.

Throughout this sermon series we have looked at who God is. We have seen that he is limitless, compassionate, slow to anger and not needy. These are big concepts which are hard to wrap our minds around. For many of us, it is even harder to fully believe and wrap our hearts around such truths. As with the Athenians, we ought to be open to learning new things about God and responding to who he is.

**TODAY:** Think back on the major points of the series so far: God is limitless, slow to anger and not needy. Which of these do you struggle to believe? Consider how you can grow to believe and live out of the truth about who God is. It might mean memorizing a verse of Scripture or posting a sticky note reminder of a characteristic of God and focusing on that each day. It could be a prayer each morning inviting God to help you believe the truth of who he is.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Psalm 102](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.