

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

God Is

Speaker:

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Date:

October 11th, 2026

Scriptures:

Various

Theme: God is and we must recognize our dependence on him.

Introduction: Sometimes the environment of our culture is referred to as the “air we breathe.” The theology of the broader society is impossible to avoid. It is so ubiquitous that, unless we are especially vigilant, we are going to breathe in the toxic cloud of Therapeutic Psychology. But the gospel is our oxygen, the Scriptures our protective mask, and the Holy Spirit our helper to clear our eyes. Our protection against the toxic cloud of the therapeutic begins with the most straightforward and obvious proposition: God is, and we must recognize our dependence on him.

1. The Starting Point Problem

- The fundamental problem with Therapeutic Psychology is the starting point.
- Its purveyors were evolutionists, believing that the world was anonymously, mysteriously generated.
- This affects their starting point, because it denies the true design and purpose of humanity.
- Abraham Maslow first applied the idea of self-actualization to humanity in 1943: “What a man can be, he must be. This need we call self-actualization.”
 - This makes the man his own definition and goal.
 - It is also authoritative, using “need” and “must” to form an imperative.
- Because the starting point is subversive, so is the outcome.
- Therapeutic Psychology is another gospel akin to Gnosticism.

2. The Comprehensive Solution

- The Bible begins with the assumption that, “In the beginning, God” was.
- Humans lack the capacity to fully understand God. And yet, there is nothing more apparent in all of life than this: God is, and he created all things.
- The Bible everywhere assumes that God is a powerful Creator and Judge (Genesis 1:1–5, 26–31; Psalm 8:3–6; Psalm 19:1–2; Romans 1:19–20).
- God is highly personal, and God is love, but the dense toxic dust cloud of Therapeutic Psychology clouds people’s ability to see him.
- The Bible does not present the atheistic position as intellectually sophisticated. God calls the atheist fool.
- God has created us, and he therefore defines what we are.

Questions:

1. Where do you see the toxic cloud of Therapeutic Psychology (such as “self-actualization”) in your work, family, etc?
2. What does Maslow’s “theology” reveal about the cultural view of humanity?
3. How might your dependence upon God lead you away from the toxic air of T.P. and to him?