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Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

***Stuff For Today***

• Bob the Square

• Free advice you can take out into the world as you grow older

• If you could only use four words to describe God, which four would you choose?

# The “Forgotten” Character Trait

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

***Isaiah 59:17***

***He put on righteousness as His breastplate,
 and the helmet of salvation on His head;***

 ***He put on the garments of vengeance***

 ***and wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak.***

 How big is the God you worship? An honest answer will color and tint how you read and view the Bible. The pat Sunday School response is “Oh, He is very big.” But are we convinced? At times, it can be advantageous to revisit a thought or concept in the spirit of genuine study. We can then walk away from the process, confident and reaffirmed in our beliefs. Or, if necessary, adjust to additional information, and rethink our convictions.

 Genesis 1, the account of creation, is a central focal point that must be considered in any discussion of “How big is God?” We have already examined the first word in the Bible. The second is as fascinating. “In the beginning, God…” we read. Hebrew is not unique in structure. Several other languages have the distinction of containing nouns that can be *singular*, *dual*, and *plural*. English is generally limited to the singular and plural construct of nouns. An “s” added to the end of the word in English is, in most cases, sufficient to transform the noun into its plural configuration. The Hebrew word for God, *Elohim* in the original text, is in the plural (three or more) form. One of the greatest mysteries of the Bible—how can God be three distinct, unique, equal persons and yet considered One? Will that riddle ever be solved this side of the grave? It is sufficient that the Bible, the Word of God, teaches it. Our feeble minds find the comprehension of the infinite impossible, at best.

 God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit, were present at creation, each actively taking part. The vantage point of Colossians 1:16-17 gives the impression that Jesus Christ was “center stage”, as it were. (On a personal note, one could imagine that when the Bible says “And God said…” Jesus could well have been the One speaking the words out loud.) The account in Colossians goes on to say that not only did He speak the world into existence, He holds it together. If He were to let go or turn away for an instant, all would cease to exist! The question again, “How big is the God you worship?”

 An infinite God is difficult to define, explain, or understand. He knew that, and ingeniously put together a Book containing everything that we need to know about Him. An infinite God, displaying Himself in a finite number of pages means one thing. Every word on those pages is important. Very important. And yet how many have not availed themselves of the opportunity to read every one of those words?

 A most interesting portrayal is found in Isaiah 59:17! Few are familiar with this verse, yet it describes the essence and character of God more succinctly than any other passage in the Bible. We find there four character traits that picture Him to us in an extraordinary way. An infinite God defined by four words.

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**Enthusiasm: (noun)**

**Great Excitement For, or Interest in, Some Thing**

Every two years we have a very special meal. It is unlike anything that you have ever experienced before! Absolutely great food, more fun than you can possibly imagine, and a memory you can take with you for the rest of your life. We will be giving you the time and place soon. But expect great food, a movie, and some live entertainment. This will be your only chance to see and experience this. (That is, unless you flunk this class and have to come back for a third or maybe a fourth year.)

Reviews have been tremendous—5 out of 5 stars every year!!!!!!

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