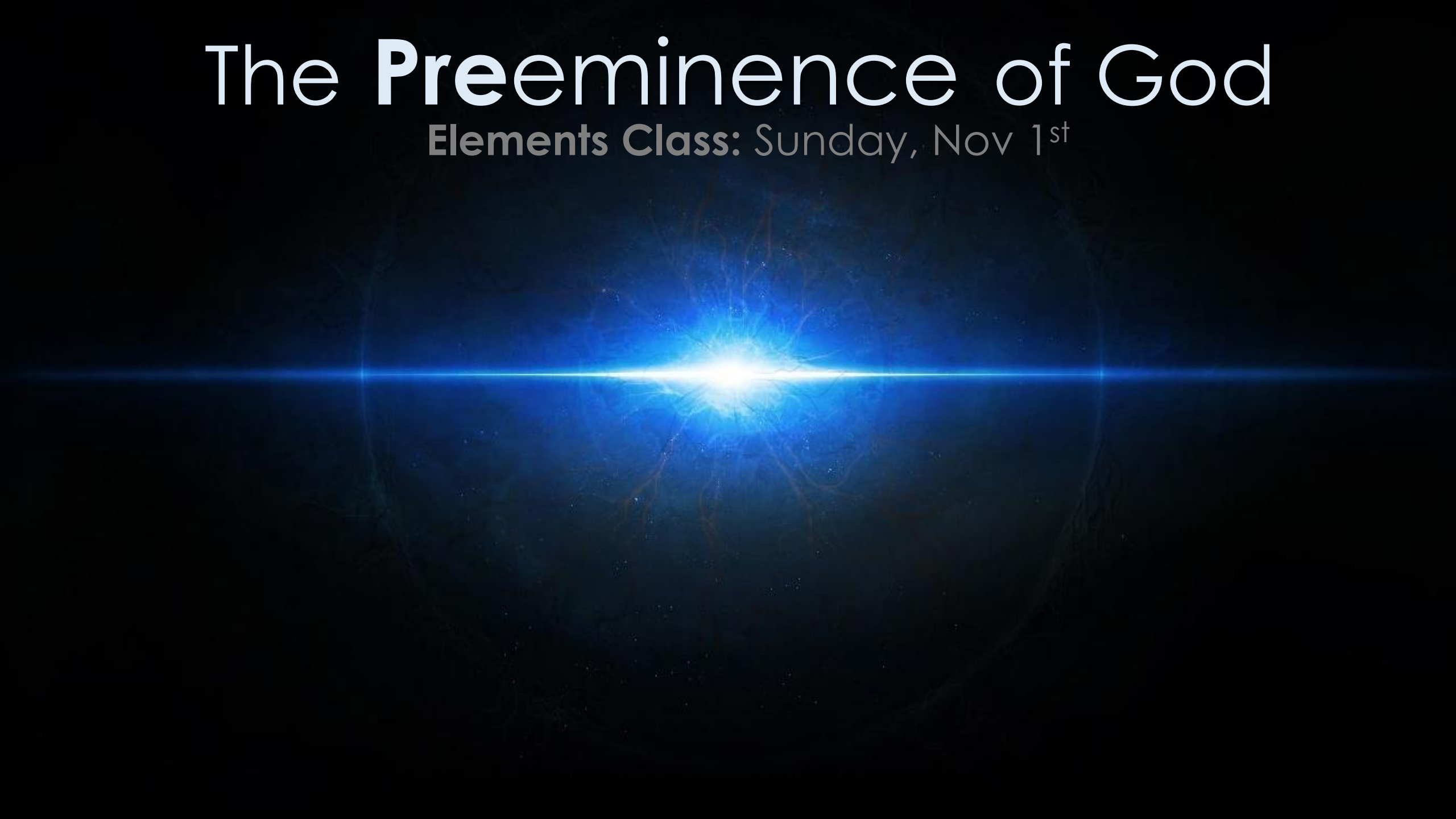


The **P**reeminence of God

Elements Class: Sunday, Nov 1st



WHO IS

GOD

We can never know who or what we are until
we know at least something of what God is...

“It is not a cheerful thought that millions of us who live in a land of Bibles, who belong to churches and labor to promote the Christian religion, **may yet pass our whole lives on this earth without once having tried to think seriously about the being of God.**”



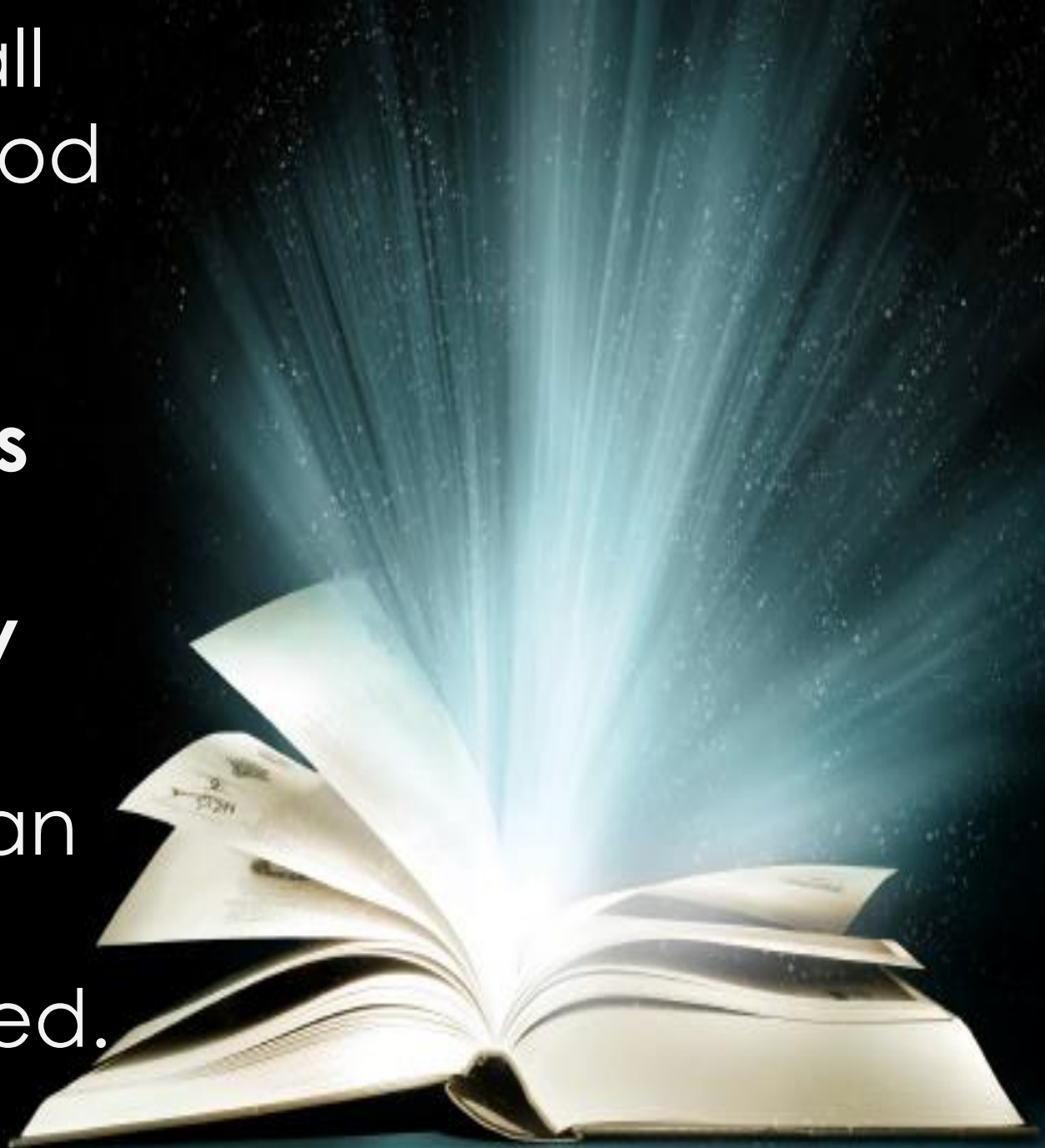
“Few of us have let our hearts gaze in wonder at the I AM. Such thoughts are too painful for us. We prefer to think about how to build a better mousetrap, or how to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before. And for this we are now paying a too heavy price in the secularization of our religion and the decay of our inner live.” **A.W. Tozer**



The foundation of all
true knowledge of God
must be
**a clear mental
apprehension of His
perfections
as revealed in Holy
Scripture.**

An unknown God can
neither be trusted,
served, nor worshipped.

Arthur Pink



The **P**reeminence of God

Attribute #1



SELF-EXISTENCE **Matchless**

Solitariness **Set Apart**

Above all else

Before all else

Supreme **Beyond all things**

def·i·ni·tion

When we say that God is Preeminent, we mean that:

He is **Supreme** and **above** *everything* and *everyone else* **in all ways**. He has **always** **been, is, and always will be greater in every way** than the full sum of everything and everyone else that ever exists.

def·i·ni·tion

When we say that God is Preeminent, we mean that:

He existed before all things and His existence before all things is the only thing that allows there to be anything else. He has no origin, yet everything outside of Himself has its origin from Him. He depends on nothing, yet every other thing depends on Him, fully.

def·i·ni·tion

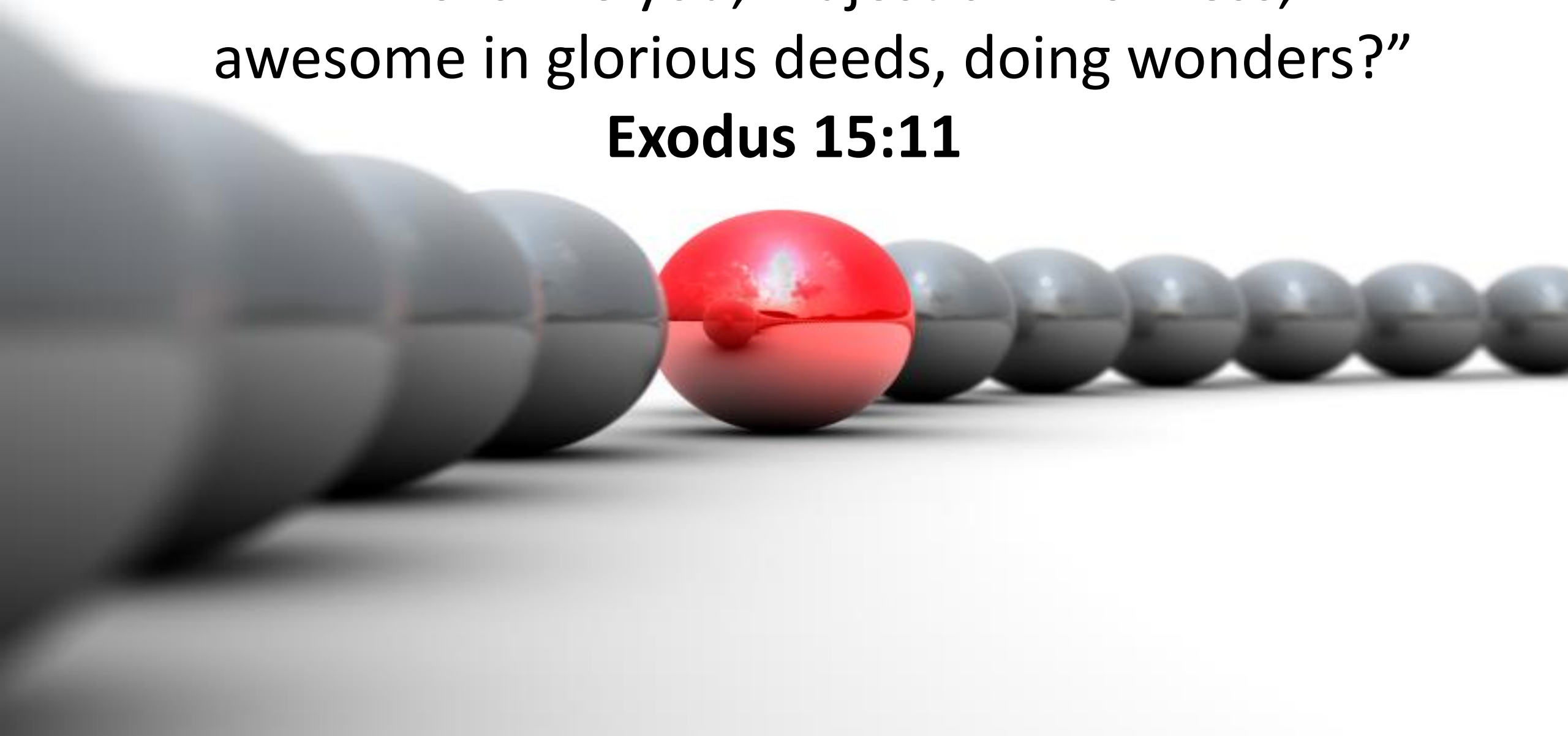
When we say that God is Preeminent, we mean that:

Another key element to the preeminence of God is that **God is solitary in all of His attributes.**

He alone possess them to the full, to the infinite degree of perfection. He alone is God, He alone is before all. He alone is Ruler, Creator & Sustainer.

“Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

Exodus 15:11



def·i·ni·tion

When we say that God is Preeminent, we mean that:

Another key element to the preeminence of God is that **God was, is and always will be fully God, fully perfect, fully holy, fully excellent and fully satisfied in and of Himself.** Nothing can be added to Him or subtracted from Him.

"In the beginning, God."

There was no heaven, where His glory is now particularly manifested. There was no earth to engage His attention. There were no angels to hymn His praises; no universe to be upheld by the word of His power.

There was nothing, no one, but God; and that, not for a day, a year, or an age, but "from everlasting."
During a past eternity, God was alone: self-contained, self-sufficient, self-satisfied; in need of nothing.



Had a universe, had angels, had human beings been necessary to Him in any way, they also had been called into existence from all eternity. The creating of them when He did, added nothing to God essentially. **He changes not, therefore His essential glory can be neither augmented nor diminished.**

God was under no constraint, no obligation, no necessity to create. That He chose to do so was purely a sovereign act on His part, caused by nothing outside Himself, determined by nothing but His own mere good pleasure; for He "works all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11). That He did create was simply for the manifestation of His glory.

“God has **no origin** and it is precisely this concept of no-origin which distinguishes ‘that-which-is-God’ from what is not God.”

A.W. Tozer

The Preeminence of God

Origin is a word that can apply only to things that have been **created**. When we think of anything that has origin, we are not thinking of God.

The Preeminence of God



No beginning, no end!
No growth, no change!



A beginning, an end!
Much growth, much change!

The Preeminence of God

All existing things necessarily originated somewhere at sometime...and whatever does exist must have had a cause at least equal to it, since the lesser cannot produce the greater.



The Preeminence of God

The preeminence of God tells us that
there is One who is;
**the cause of all but is Himself
caused by none!**

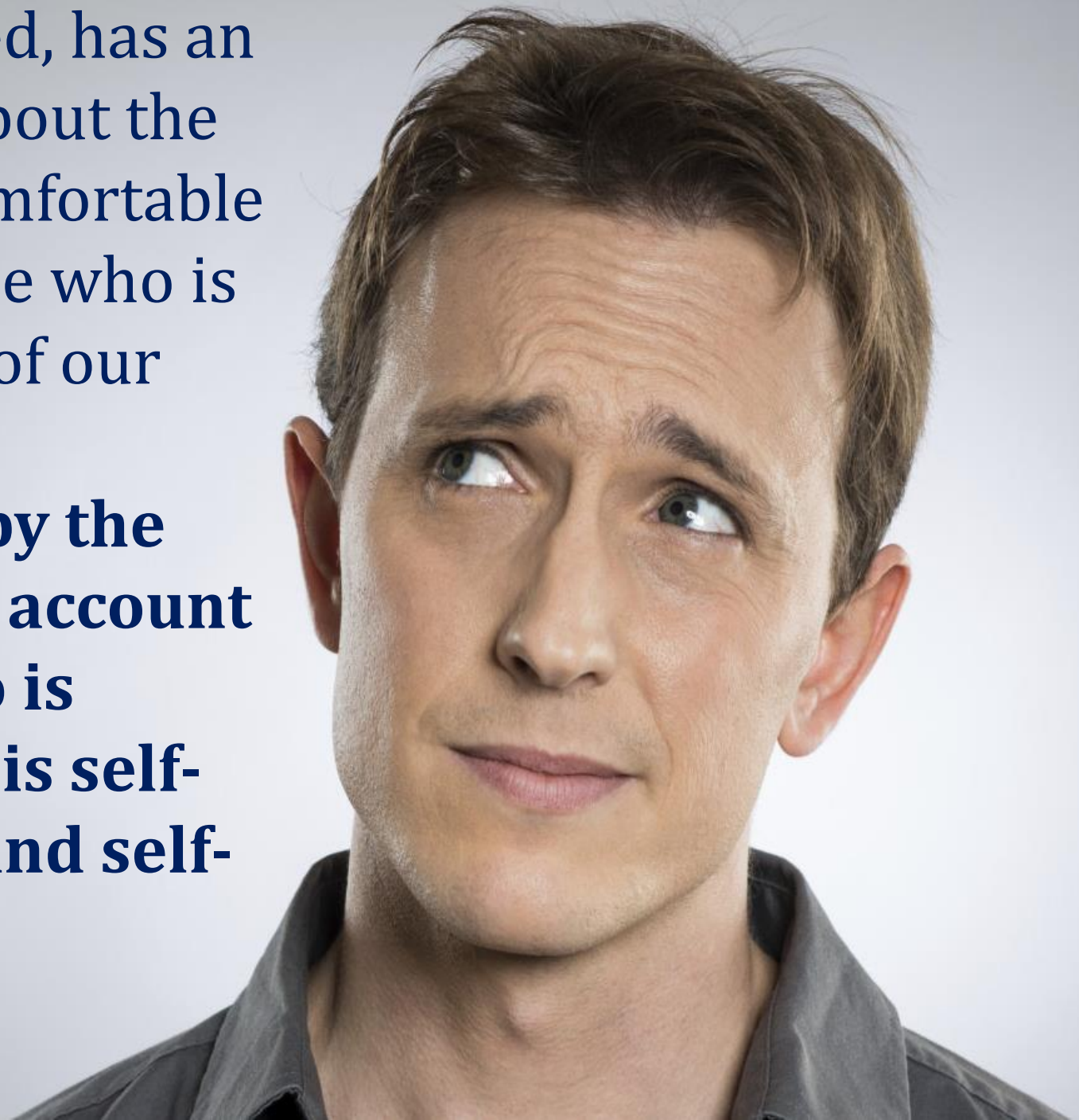
The Preeminence of God

The preeminence of God tells us that
there is One who is;
**accountable to none...but to whom
all must give account.**

“The human mind, being created, has an understandable uneasiness about the Uncreated. We do not find it comfortable to allow for the presence of One who is wholly outside of the circle of our familiar knowledge.

We tend to be disquieted by the thought of One who does not account to us for His being, who is responsible to no one, who is self-existent, self-independent, and self-sufficient.”

A.W. Tozer



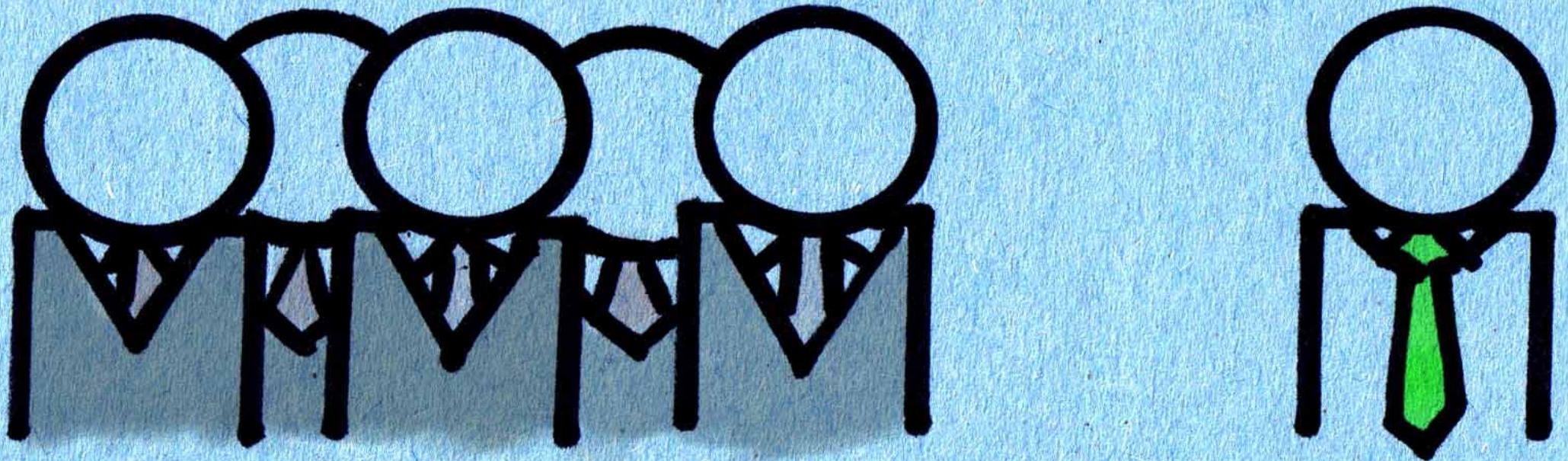
“To admit that there is One who lies beyond us, who exists outside of all our categories, who will not appear before the bar of our reason, nor submit to our curious inquiries: this requires a great deal of humility, more than most of us possess...

so we save face by
thinking God down to
our level, or at least
down to where we
can manage Him....



Yet how He eludes us! For He is everywhere while He is nowhere, for “where” has to do with matter and space, and God is independent of both. He is unaffected by time or motion, is wholly self-dependent and owes nothing to the world His hands have made.”

A.W. Tozer



Man is a created being who of himself possesses nothing
**but is dependent each moment for his existence
upon the One who created him after His own likeness.**
The fact of God is necessary to the fact of man. Think God
away, and man has no ground of existence.



Not only is man always & totally dependent on God...but
**everything that exists came out of and is dependent
upon the continuing, sustaining impulse of the Creator!**



All things were
made through
Him, and without
Him was not any
thing made that
was made.

John 1:3



For from Him and through Him and for
Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!

Romans 11:36



For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. **Colossians 1:16**



How

Should



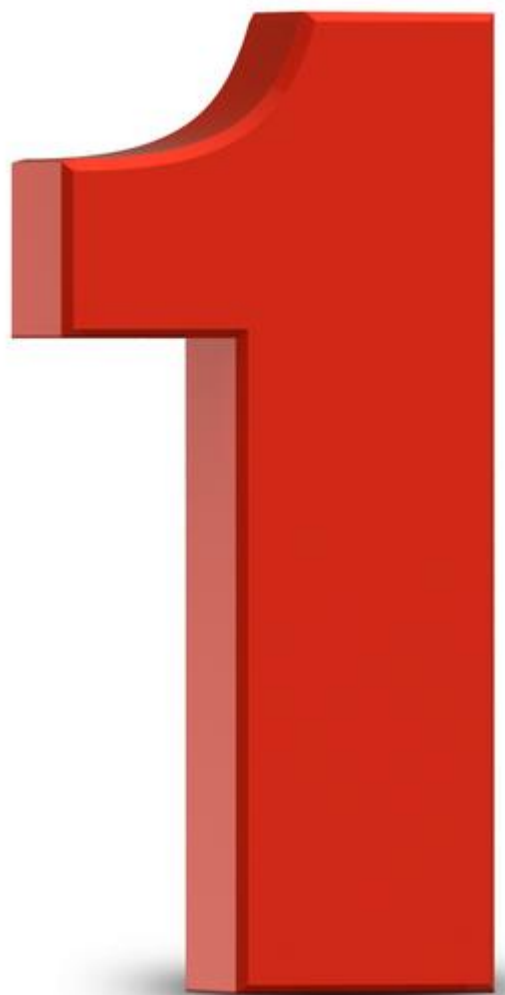
AFFECT

me



The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all men,
**who suppress the truth. For what can be known
about God is plain to them,**
because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes,
namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been
clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the
things that have been made.

Romans 1:18-20



We must accept the truth
that there is

One to whom we owe our all.

We must accept the truth
that there is One who is totally
beyond us in every way,
to whom we must give account.

For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God** or **give thanks to him**, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:20-21





We must begin to **cherish the truth** that we have a holy, perfect Creator and ruling Sustainer. We must **thank Him** **for all that He has done** and our lives must **submit in honor to Him** because of His sovereign ownership over us.

Claiming to be wise, they
became fools, and **exchanged
the glory of the immortal God**
for images resembling mortal
man and birds and animals and
creeping things.

Romans 1:22-23





There is no neutral response to the preeminence of God. The creature either **rejoices in it**, or **rejects it**. And we must not exchange the glory of an **incomparable God** for the **image of created things**. **We must repent** of scorning His rightful rule.

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done,**
on earth as it is in
heaven.”

Matthew 6:9-10





We yearn for **God's kingdom**
reign on earth to come.
We pray for **God's design & will**
to be done **on earth &**
in our lives as it is
perfectly & always
being done in heaven.

“At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

Ephesians 5:8





We walk in the light of the truth,
submitting to our Owner's design.
We obey the Maker's instruction,
not only
because He is the boss,
but because we trust that
He knows what is best.



Next Week:

The Omniscience of God

