

THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD

In numerous statements the Bible proclaims God's omniscience—He knows all things (Rom. 11:33–34; 1 John 3:20b; et al.) In spite of these plain averments, the Bible also reveals some things God does **not** know. This claim does not imply any weakness in God; any such limitations are entirely self-imposed.

Consider some things God does not know:

- **A sinless responsible human being.** “For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3: 23; cf. 1 John 1:8). (Note: “all have sinned,” not “all have inherited Adam’s sin.”)
- **A sinner whom God does not love.** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; et al.). God loves even the most sinful and debauched, and He wants them to be saved.
- **A sinner for whom Christ did not die.** Christ Jesus “gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:6; cf. 1 John 2:2; Isa. 53:6; et al.). John Calvin, not Jesus Christ, invented the doctrine of the “limited atonement.” All sinners have an equal opportunity of salvation through Christ.
- **Anyone who will be saved outside of Christ.** “And in none other [than Christ] is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved” (Acts 4:12; cf. Eph. 1:3; Col. 1:14; 1 John 5:11; et al.). Jesus said; “I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

- **Anyone who is “in” Christ without being baptized.** “Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:3). “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ” (Gal. 3: 27). To claim to be “in” Christ without having been Scripturally baptized is to claim to know more than God knows.
- **Anyone’s entering Heaven without being saved on earth.** Jesus said to unbelievers in His time, “I go away, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sin: whither I go, ye cannot come” (John 8:21). He also said, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...” (Rev. 14:13). Several centuries after the New Testament was completed, uninspired men invented the doctrine of purgatory, the doctrine of a “second chance.”
- **Any responsible person who will escape the Judgment.** “For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). All will keep this appointment (Heb. 9:27).

—Dub McClish

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