

Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically Study

About the Author:

Dr. John Snyder has been pastor of Christ Church, New Albany, MS since 1999. He is the writer for the Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically Study as well as a second study, Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty. Dr. Snyder also does a weekly podcast titled “The Whole Counsel,” formerly the “Behold Your God Podcast” produced by Media Gratiae.

Format of Study:

The Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically Study is comprised of three key elements: (1) a 12-week workbook, (2) a DVD with 12 sessions, (3) Small group discussion.

- Each week participants will complete five daily devotional studies prior to group meeting.
- Group meeting will consist of watching DVD and discussing material covered over the course of the week including the DVD material. DVD has three distinct parts: (a) a biographical sketch of a Christian leader of the past, (b) a sermon addressing the topic for the week, (c) commentary offered by pastors and church leaders today.

Weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings (6:00 – 7:30 pm) beginning August 18th. Total of 14 meetings. We will begin time by watching DVD together and then spend remainder of time with group discussion. Childcare along with children’s lesson will be provided for families.

The Goal of Study:

The objective of the study is to confront low views of God with the truth of God’s Word and to cultivate a renewed commitment to a high view of God. The material in the workbook will lead participants into the Scriptures and help them spend time meditating and reflecting on the character of God. The study will also instruct participants on how having a right view of God is fundamental to the Christian life—the Christian’s pursuit of holiness, worship, evangelism, and service. Finally, the study will point out two hazards to rightly beholding God and encourage participants to continue their pursuit of the one true and living God as the study concludes.

Note to Participants:

In order to get the most out of this study, it is important that participants endeavor to spend quality time working through the daily devotionals. This is a crucial element of the study. Participants will be studying the Scriptures and be reminded of the truths that they are being exposed to. As you spend time doing the workbook, keep a notebook close by to record thoughts and/or questions that you would like to remember and discuss at group meeting. Each week of the study goes together—the beginning sessions focus on laying a solid foundation and those that follow build upon that foundation.

Schedule:

August 18	Introduction
25	Week 1: Beholding God and The Great Attraction
September 1	Week 2: Beholding God and Clearing the Way for Our Return
8	Week 3: Beholding God in the Bible
15	Week 4: Beholding God in the Face of Jesus Christ
22	Week 5: Beholding God in the Work of Salvation
29	Week 6: Beholding God and the Response of Personal Holiness
October 6	Week 7: Beholding God and Restoring Worship in Our Lives
13	Week 8: Beholding God and Evangelism
20	Week 9: Beholding God and Our Christian Service
27	Week 10: Beholding a Lesser God
November 3	Week 11: Beholding God and Avoiding the Lies of Pragmatism
10	Week 12: Beholding God and Seeking the God We are Beholding
17	Recap

Biographical Sketches:

Each week the DVD begins with a biographical sketch (5-8 minutes) of a Christian leader who embodied and lived out the truth presented in the workbook for that week. The following individuals are included in the sketches (in the order in which they are found in study): AW Tozer, Timothy Dwight, George Muller, Samuel Rutherford, George Whitefield, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, Charles Spurgeon, Daniel Rowland, Amy Carmichael, Charles Finney¹, Jonathan Edwards, and Martyn Lloyd-Jones. These men and women are drawn out of church history from the 17th century- 20th century. It is my prayer that as you are introduced to these godly men and women of the past, you will be intrigued to get more acquainted with them and others whom God has used to proclaim his glory².

Supplemental Materials:

Media Gratiae, the producer of the *Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically*, also has a weekly podcast (*Behold Your God Podcast, The Whole Counsel*). Dr. John Snyder discusses Christian theology, church history, and the Christian life. Podcast episodes run from 30-45 minutes on average and are a great source for edification.³

¹ It should be noted that Charles Finney is presented as a negative example. Finney was a pivotal influence during the 19th century (2nd Great Awakening) introducing "New Methods" into the church and leading the church to become much more "Man-Centered" in its philosophy of ministry.

² Recommended authors of Christian biography: Iain Murray, Thomas Nettles, Arnold Dallimore, Steven Lawson, Joel Beeke, Michael Haykin. John Piper (Desiring God) has done a number of helpful biographical messages that can be listened to online or read in book format.

³ Recommended podcast series from Behold Your God Podcast: *The Path of Evangelism* (guide for biblical evangelism), *Letters of Robert Murray M'Cheyne* (guide for counseling seekers), *Letters from John Newton* (guide for Christian growth and maturity).