

Our Commanding General

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I. Introduction.

- A. Even though we do not see our commanding general, we believe that he exists and influences us.
- B. God's existence and importance do not depend upon whether we see him or not.

II. The place and power of our commanding general

- A. He has appeared vicariously through leadership. The Captain of the Host of the Lord is God Himself. (Joshua 5:13-15)
- B. The commanding general is the chief of staff. There is none senior to the Lord. (Revelation 19:16)
- C. He is the head over all things - He is at the top and His command post is at the right hand of God. (Ephesians 1:20-22)
- D. His jurisdiction is everything. (1 Chronicles 29:11)
 - 1. By Him all things are held together. (Colossians 1:16-17)
 - 2. If something could happen so that God would cease to exist, the universe would cease because He is the power of the atom.
 - 3. Even the wind and the sea obey Him.

III. The activities of our commanding general.

- A. God is giving grace to the proud and opposing the proud.
- B. He fearfully and wonderfully makes man. (Psalm 139:14)
 - 1. God's thoughts towards man are more than the number of the sand.
 - 2. The formula to make an individual is unique and used only once.
 - 3. God is the God of infinite variety.
 - 4. Every star differs from one another in glory. Each sets off a unique frequency that creates a symphony in the background that man could hear before the Fall. God made man to be different in order to contribute to his eternal plan and fulfill our purpose.

C. He is loving his children.

1. God has a secret lover's name that He calls us by that no one else knows. (Revelation 2:17)

2. God is the God of infinite love and intimacy.

IV. The character of our commanding general.

A. The Lord is good to all. (Psalm 145:9)

B. He is compassionate, which means he has love aflame.

V. Where man fits in: God's grand plan.

A. Everything in the universe is going to be united. (Ephesians 1:10)

1. All things will bow to and confess Jesus as Lord. (Philippians 2:9,11)

2. Christ will reign until all are put under his feet. (1 Corinthians 15:27)

3. This is Christ's plan to subdue every enemy and hand it back to the Father.

4. The theater of the great war of the universe is in the human heart of the individual. The enemy has in mind to steal, kill, and destroy using sin. (John 10:10)

B. Why God did not prevent the great catastrophic warfare. (Philemon)

1. If God knew (and certainly He did know) the great catastrophe to happen because of sin, why did He create the human race?

2. God created orders before, but He was not satisfied in His heart.

3. Philemon represents God the judge, Paul represents Jesus the intercessor, and Onesimus represents the human race.

4. Onesimus departed for a season so that he might be received by Philemon as not a servant but a brother.

5. We are received in Christ no longer as servants but sons in God's eternal plan because of something in the heart of God that could not be satisfied.

C. God looks throughout all the earth to show himself strong on behalf of the one whose heart is perfect in Him. (2 Chronicles 16:9; 1 Corinthians 16:13)

Application questions.

1. What are the outstanding qualities of our Commanding General? What is His plan?

2. Where do you fit in God's plan? How has God designed you to participate in His symphony?

3. Based on the message, what do you think the great motivator of God is? How can this motivate you in obedience to Him?
