

*So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. (Jam 4:7-8 NET)*

“God is!” This is the foundation of everything else. God is. All that exists, the unseen, the unseeable, the cosmos – living and inanimate – is all from him, for him, and to him. God is means that he exists, or if you please, “He lives.” The one I speak of is God – the living God.

God lives. He is the absolute life. All other forms we call living have received their life. My life is given to me – a gift. He is the only self-contained (self-sustained) life. He lives and is the source of all else. His life and his mode or manner of living is from himself and not from another. He determines his own being. Our life is temporary while his is enduring – permanent.

When we say, “God is!” we are expressing the all-inclusive and absolute. If we were to add in any way to these simple two words (this verb and noun), we make it less than it was. For example: we say, “God is love.” The statement is true but only a portion of “God is!” We might declare that, “God is holy!” and believe that we have added to “God is”, but this while being true is not all of God. God is, is the absolute reality. He exists.

The entire creation (cosmos) is an expression of his mind and by his decisive act – but he is beyond it and all that exists was called into existence by him. God is the absolute person. When Moses asked (Exodus 3:14) “What is your name?” God responded, “I Am!” I exist! :I AM WHO I AM (or) “I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE.” (the verb is a Hebrew Qal perfect future) God states that he not only is but he determines his self being, but he determines his own nature. God wills – God determines – God purposes – God chooses. This divine mind is the source of all you see and know and beyond you. This mind of God is beyond all human knowing and becomes known only in revelation. God must reveal his self – his nature. We (I) can only know God as he reveals himself and as he chooses to be known. That mind of God speaks – reveals – the mind of God – LOGOS – God is the Word. Jesus is the Word – God revealing himself, and here alone he may be known.

Here is the core of all authentic reasons for life and . . . here is the opening of meaning in a mystery.

#### Romans 12:1-2

*Brothers, I plead with you through the mercies of God, to offer up all your whole being as a living sacrifice, consecrated and pleasing to God, which is your logical mode of worship. Do not conform to the contemporary age; rather, allow yourself to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may be able to discern God's will – that which is good, well pleasing, and complete.*

#### 1 John 2:17

*The present creation is passing, with all its lusts, but the one who does the will of God remains through the ages.*

The will of God reveal is the mind of God behind all reality. Here is the person of our creator we find the meaning of our lives and our nature finds its peace. The core of worship is the transformation of our inner being into the mind of the one true absolute God who alone lives. That life is the source of all life. God gave that life to us as a human. This is the “Good News”. The life was the light of mankind – revealing the God we cannot otherwise know - see John 5:25-27.