



# TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

## GOD IS RELEVANT

David Anguish

John Piper tells about preaching a sermon from Isaiah 6:1-4 in which he aimed to stress the glory and majesty of God without a word of application. But, accustomed as he was to adding application points, he had second thoughts, wondering whether “the passionate portrayal of the greatness of God in and of itself [would] meet the needs of the people.”

Weeks later, a young father told him that on the day Piper preached that sermon he and his wife had just discovered that their child was being sexually abused by a close relative. Upon hearing this, Piper again second guessed his decision to omit specific points of application.

What the young man said next changed his outlook: “John, these have been the hardest months of our lives. Do you know what has gotten me through? *The vision of the greatness of God’s holiness that you gave me the first week of January. It has been the rock that we stand on*” (emphasis added).

Piper’s application of that story is succinct: “The greatness and the glory of God are relevant” (Piper, *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*, 9-10).

James Packer wrote a book to emphasize that knowing God is what we are made for, should be our aim in life, is the eternal life Jesus gives, and in fact is the best thing in life (Packer, *Knowing God*, 29). But what if we are so focused on specific doctrines, practices, and even human need that we lose sight of that truth? Similarly, what if we make our assemblies so much about feelings and edification that we seldom reflect on God’s glory and majesty (read Isaiah 6 again)?

Do we need to know the Bible’ teachings and how they apply? Do we need to be sensitive to and compassionate toward human need? Do we need regular mutual encouragement and opportunities to express our feelings? Yes, yes, and yes.

But, what if we focus so much on these good things that we miss seeing and knowing God?

September 2019  
[www.davidanguish.com](http://www.davidanguish.com)