

**Title:** Good God Almighty

**Text:** Nahum (to comfort or burden bearer)

**Target:** How you think God views you, will define the way you view yourself and the situations you face.

- I. **The Consuming Nature of God:** *“The LORD is a Jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.”* (Nahum 1:2)
  - A. **God’s prerequisite is Allegiance:** *“You shall have no other gods before me.”* (Exodus 20:3)
  - B. **God pursues your Adoration:** *“for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”* (Exodus 34:14)
  - C. **God presses for your Attention:** *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”* (Deuteronomy 6:5)
  
- II. **The Convincing Nature of God:** *“The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm and the clouds are the dust of his feet.”* (Nahum 1:3)
  - A. **God is patient in Salvation:** *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)
  - B. **God is persistent in Steadfastness:** *And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,”* (Exodus 34:6)
  - C. **God is pardoning towards Sinfulness:** *“The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.”* (Numbers 14:18)
  
- III. **The Compelling Nature of God:** *“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.”* (Nahum 1:7)
  - A. **God is pure in motive:** **“good”** *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”* (James 1:17)
  - B. **God is protection from the mayhem:** **“stronghold”** *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.”* (2 Corinthians 10:4)
  - C. **God is personal in mercy:** **“knows”** *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* (Psalm 23:6)

**Takeaway:** We are either constructing a God in our own image or God is conforming us to His image.

**Sermon Discussin Questions:** Let's focus on the three key words from this week: Consuming, Convincing, Compelling. These three words help to describe the nature of God's love and they help to shape our responses.

Consuming: It has been well said that you can tell what someone values by how they spend their time and their money. Have you ever been consumed by anything? What happens to your thinking, desires, and actions during these times? Have you ever been consumed by the things of the LORD?

Convincing: Have you ever been so sure of anything that you were willing to defend it no matter the odds? Perhaps you believe that Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time and you are so convinced of this that you can't help but offer a defense of your position. Perhaps your defense comes from the personal connection of actually seeing MJ play when he was in his prime. Read Psalm 34:8 and 2 Peter 2:1-3. Have you ever personally seen and tasted the LORD to know how good He is? Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. Are you convinced of His character and nature to the point of offering a defense for the hope within you?

Compelling: What are you compelled to do in life? Why? Read Romans 12:1-2. Paul urges, beseeches, appeals to, and pleads (compels) with the church in Rome to present themselves as living sacrifices (sacrifices that are both consumed by and convinced of God's goodness and mercy). Why does Paul urge them so passionately? Paul uses the first 11 chapters of Romans to set up these two verses. Paul knew that the very understanding of who God is and what He has done compels us to walk in such a way. This begs the question; Are you compelled to live out Romans 12:1-2?