

not the infinite, eternal, unchangeable, sovereign Creator, Preserver, Providential Ruler, Redeemer, and Judge of the universe – the living God revealed in creation and Scripture.

Now before we go any further, we should define what "departing from the living God" means, especially in the context of this series.

Although "to depart" can mean to move away from someone or something to another location, this is not what we mean here. "Departing from God," as it used in this series, has nothing to do with our moving from one location to another. If God were located in some large area high up in the sky, and we were to think of departing from Him in the sense of moving away from Him, then we could depart from Him very easily by going down, say, 11,752 feet to the bottom level of the Western Deep Levels Mine in Carletonville, Transvaal, South Africa. We could do that to try to get away from God. Or we could depart from God by going 35,820 feet into the murky waters of the Marianna Trench of the Pacific Ocean between Guam and the Philippines.

And if on the other hand drawing near to God means going up, we could draw nearer to Him by ascending 1,368 feet to the top of the World Trade Center in New York City (which all three of my daughters have done, but I haven't!), or 1,454 feet to the top of Sears Tower in Chicago, or, if you really want to get nearer to God, you could climb to the summit of Mount Everest, measured at 29,028 feet above sea level.