

# The Revelation of the One True God

## The Revelation of God in Nature

### Lesson 2

Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 14:8-18; 17:22-34

Romans 1:18-32

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

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# The Revelation of the One True God

- ▶ The need for Divine Revelation (1)
- ▶ The vehicles of Divine Revelation (2-3)
- ▶ The content of Divine Revelation (4-11)
- ▶ The power of Divine Revelation (12)
- ▶ The purpose of Divine Revelation (13)



“We start the study of theology with two presuppositions, namely (1) that God exists, and (2) that He has revealed Himself in His divine Word.”

BERKHOF, L. (1938). SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (P. 19)

# The Need for Divine Revelation

## Lesson 1

- ▶ God is inaccessible by His creation
  - God is Spirit (John 4:24)
  - God is inaccessible (1 Timothy 6:16)
- ▶ Man cannot see or comprehend God
  - Man is natural
  - Man is fallen – Spiritually dead



# What if: no God and no revelation?

- ▶ The Bible is self-confirming
- ▶ “We start *the study of theology . . .*” NOT our salvation
- ▶ God’s purpose in creation is to glorify the Son of God, Jesus Christ, by the work of salvation
- ▶ God reveals the great Person and Work of Christ
- ▶ God seeks sinners and brings them to Christ by His Word

# The Revelation of God

- ▶ Natural (unwritten) Revelation – a true revelation of God, clearly seen, but only exposes our condemnation.
- ▶ Special (written) Revelation – the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.
- ▶ The wisdom of man of no value (1 Corinthians 1:20-21)

# Lesson 2: The Revelation of God in Nature

- ▶ The fact of natural revelation - Psalm 19:1-6
- ▶ The reception of natural revelation – Acts 14:8-18; 17:22-34
- ▶ The purpose of natural revelation – Romans 1:18-32

# Psalm 19:1-6

- ▶ The heavens: An unfathomable expanse
- ▶ Glory of God – His attributes Exodus 33:18-34:7
- ▶ Through the work of His hands – in the heavens
- ▶ A universal, message
  - Day and night
  - All languages
  - All locations
- ▶ The sun
  - Kept in a tent for the night
  - Traverses the sky every day
  - Nothing hidden from its heat
- ▶ The message is God's power and deity (Job 26:14)



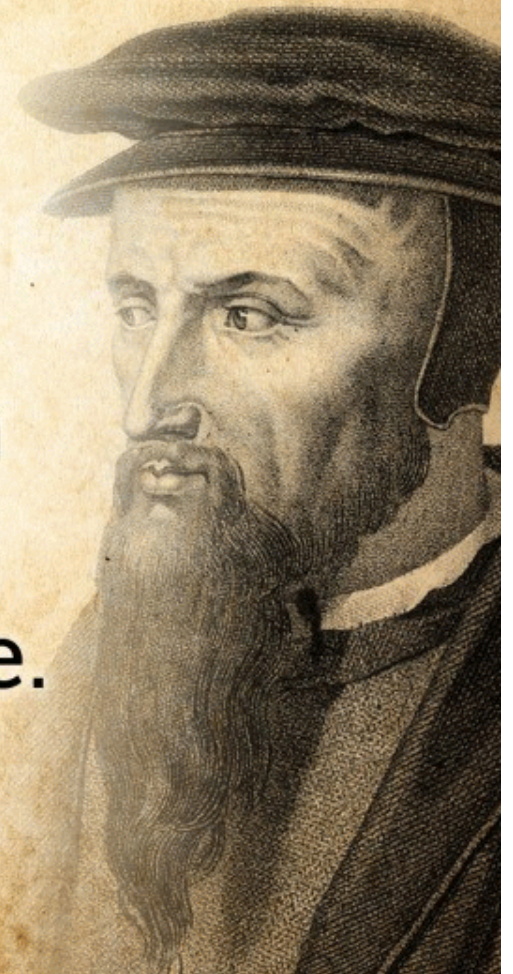
“For what nation or race of men is there that does not possess, independently of instruction, a certain preconception of them [the gods]?”

CICERO (107BC TO 44BC) , THE NATURE OF THE GODS, BOOK I, XVI.



If, indeed, there were some in the past, and today not a few appear, who deny that God exists, yet willy-nilly they from time to time feel an inkling of what they desire not to believe.

JOHN CALVIN



# Paul at Lystra – Acts 14:8-18

- ▶ Preaching the Gospel in Lystra
- ▶ Religion in Lystra – Psalm 19: glory and power of God
  - Supernatural and out of this world
  - Great power – miraculous healing
  - Priest and sacrifices
  - Felt the need to appease with sacrifice – an angry God
  - Priest did not know his own idea of a god
- ▶ Lycaonians response to Special Revelation
  - Paul is stoned and left for dead – hostility to the One True God
  - Natural revelation did not prepare for Special revelation



# Paul at Athens – Acts 17:22-34

- ▶ The Gospel of Jesus and the resurrection (17:18)
- ▶ Religion in Athens – Psalm 19: glory and power of God
  - Epicureans did not believe in any existence after death,
  - Stoics believed that only the soul, the divine spark, survived death
  - Very religious – seeking god
- ▶ Altar “TO AN UNKNOWN GOD”
  - The uncertainty of human wisdom
  - The inability of human wisdom to bring peace with God

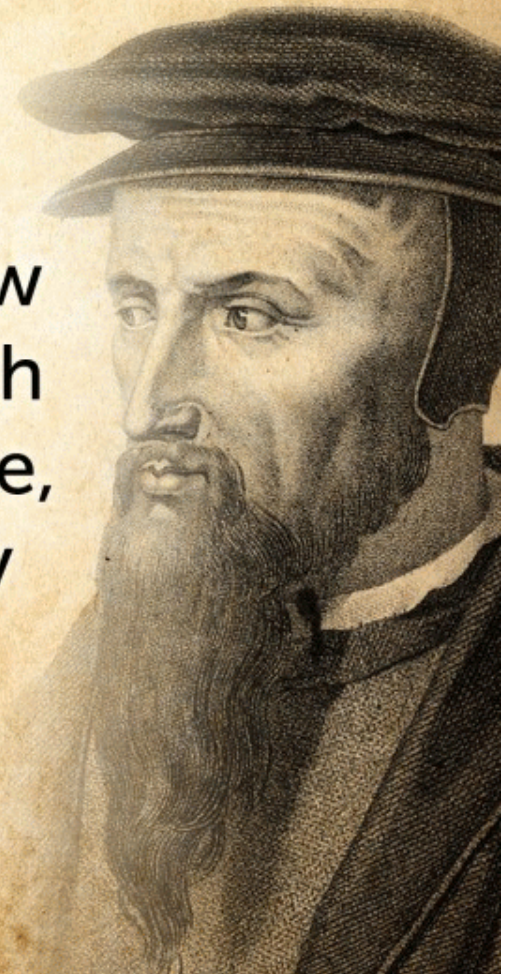


# The Gospel

- ▶ The power of God greater than they imagined
- ▶ The transcendence of God greater than they imagined
- ▶ The immanence of God greater than they imagined
- ▶ God's intent for men to seek Him
- ▶ God is good
- ▶ God will judge the world in righteousness by a Man
- ▶ God raised this Man from the dead
- ▶ Ridicule . . . faith
- ▶ Natural revelation did not prepare for Special revelation

It is therefore in vain that so many burning lamps shine for us in the workmanship of the universe to show forth the glory of its Author. Although they bathe us wholly in their radiance, yet they can of themselves in no way lead us into the right path.

JOHN CALVIN





# **The Purpose of Natural Revelation**

## **Romans 1:18-34**

- ▶ The wrath of God is revealed from heaven
- ▶ What do men know about God?
  - What God has made evident within them
  - His glory – divine attributes – the message of Psalm 19
  - Invisible power – the work of His hands
  - Divine nature – His glory
- ▶ Clearly seen by creation – by what He has made

# **The Purpose of Natural Revelation**

## **Romans 1:18-34**

### **► How is this revelation received?**

- No fear, no thanksgiving
- Futile speculations – measure God by their own wisdom
- Self deception – professing themselves to be wise, became fools
- Exchanged glory of the incorruptible God for a corruptible image



# **The Purpose of Natural Revelation**

## **Romans 1:18-34**

- ▶ **The consequences of this exchange**
  - 1:24-25 – given over to the lusts of their hearts
  - 1:26-27 – given over to degrading passions
  - 1:28-32 – given over to a depraved mind

# The Revelation of God in Nature

- ▶ A clear display of God's glory – His power and deity
- ▶ Received by human wisdom
  - Does not lead to truth
  - Denied and corrupted
- ▶ The necessity of faith
  - Hebrews 11:3 – by faith we understand what we see
  - Psalm 8 – Creation viewed through the eyes of faith
- ▶ The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost
- ▶ The Vehicle of that work is Special Revelation