Lesson 1: GOD IS

Romans 1:18-32; Acts 17:16-34
June 7, 2009
Theology Proper

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

Study of God
- His Existence
- The Trinity
- Attributes
- Wrath of God
- Sovereignty of God

Son of God

Spirit of God
“For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: ‘There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land . . . My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.’” Hosea 4:1, 6
Questions:

How do we know that God exists?
- God has made it clear to all men

How do we know our God is the One True God?
- God has made it clear to all men

Why are there so many “gods” or religions?
- It is the consequence of rejecting the God of the Bible

Why are there atheists?
- They are fools who are deceived

What do those who deny the Bible know about God?
How do we know that God exists?

The foundational message of the Bible
- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
  Genesis 1:1

The fundamental lesson of salvation
- “But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
  Hebrews 11:6

By faith

“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”
  Isaiah 44:6
What if there is no God?

An absolutely absurd scientific concept
- Random collisions of molecules
- Contrary to the laws of the universe

The confession of a fool – Psalm 14:1; 53:1

The Bible states that it is not true and no one truly believes it.
How do we know that God exists?

The Bible tells us so
- The Bible is clear
- The Bible is powerful – sufficient

There is knowledge of God outside of the Bible
- We can observe the evidence of this in human activity
- Psalm 19:1-6
- Romans 1:18-32
- Acts 17:16-34
The Gospel of Christ

Romans 1:16-17

A systematic display of the Gospel
- The power of God to save
- Salvation for Jew and Gentile

The starting point: universal condemnation
- For those who have God’s special revelation
- For those who do not have God’s special revelation
All men know of God’s existence

Romans 1:18-21

The wrath of God is revealed from heaven
What may be known of God is manifest in all men
God has shown it to them
- Since creation – a timeless revelation
- Understood by the things that are made

They are clearly seen
They knew God
They are without excuse
What do men know about God?

The wrath of God
Invisible attributes
Eternal power
Godhead – Godness – the attributes of divinity
All men deny God’s existence

Suppress the truth in unrighteousness
Not glorify Him as God
Not thankful
Futile thoughts and darkened hearts
The failure of human wisdom – 1 Cor. 1:21
The judgment of God
  - The god of this world has blinded – 2 Cor. 4:4
  - God has blinded – Isaiah 6:9-10
All men practice Idolatry

Change the glory of God for a corruptible object
A creation of their own minds
  - God as I see him
Replace deity with lower creation
  - man, birds, 4-footed animals, creeping things
The Consequences of Denial

Condemnation for denying God

Corruption of man’s glory
- Uncleanness – dishonor bodies
- Vile passions – against nature (homosexuality)
- Debased mind – all unrighteousness
God is . . . and this fact is known by all
All reject God and replace Him with idols
All are fools with futile minds and darkened hearts
None understand – Romans 3:11
None seek God – Romans 3:11
No fear of God before their eyes – Romans 3:18
How do we bring the Gospel to such men?
The Athens Demonstration

Acts 17:16-34

Ignorant pagans
No knowledge of Christian theology
No knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures
No knowledge of God
Epicureans – pleasure seekers
Stoics – fatalism
Very religious (17:22)
They were idolaters (17:16)
Objects of worship – Gold, silver, stone
Objects shaped by art and man’s devising
Altar to UNKNOWN GOD
Suppressed the truth in unrighteousness
The Gospel of Christ

Proclamation
- Not debate or reason (17:18, 23)
- Not appeal to their personal need
- Not even an appeal to their need for forgiveness of their sins

Proclaimed God
- His eternal power and Godhead
- The unknown God
- Creator of the world and all in it
- The Invisible God – not confined to material world
- The Self-sufficient One – needs nothing from man
- Universal God – made from one blood all men
- Sovereign – determined boundaries and pre-appointed times
Proclaimed God’s purpose for creation
- Men should seek Him and find Him
- A spiritual relationship
- Not represented by images
The Gospel of Christ

• The application
• God commands all men everywhere to repent
  – Repent (turn) from not giving glory or thanking
  – Repent (turn) from worshiping the creature
• God has appointed a judgment day
• The resurrected Jesus Christ is the Judge
Some mocked the divine power of God
Some wanted to know more
Some believed
God Is!

The most well-known fact in all history
The most denied fact in all history
The most important fact of all history
The point of contact with sinners
The proclamation of the Gospel