

God is and He has Spoken

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

Bibliology

Inspiration and authority
Sufficiency

“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

- Uncleaness – dishonor bodies
- Vile passions – against nature (homosexuality)
- Debased mind – all unrighteousness

The Gospel is the Power of God

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

Romans 1 applied

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

The Gospel of Christ

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

The Response

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