

God is and He has Spoken

There is none like God Lesson 3

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

June 21, 2009

Theology Proper

- ▶ **Systematic study about God**
- ▶ **The importance of the knowledge of God**
 - John 17:3
 - 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - Hosea 4:1, 6
- ▶ **Source: the Bible**

First lesson: God is

▶ Genesis 1:1

- In the beginning – Godhead/deity
- God created the heavens and the earth – eternal power

▶ Genesis 14:19-20

- God Most High – deity
- Possessor of heaven and earth – eternal power

▶ Romans 1:20

- His eternal power and Godhead are clearly seen
- This general revelation of God is corrupted

The Magnificence of God

▸ Isaiah 6:1-5

- Holy, holy, holy
- Whole earth is full of His glory

▸ Psalm 148:1-13

- Creator (v. 5-6)
- Glory above heaven and earth (v. 13)

▸ Daniel 4:34-35

- Everlasting dominion
- None can restrain His hand

God is Unknowable

Psalm 139:6

- *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it*

Psalm 145:3

- *Great is the Lord, . . . And His greatness is unsearchable.*

Isaiah 40:28

- *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable*

God is Unknowable

Isaiah 55:8-9

- “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Matthew 11:25

- At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

Romans 11:33

- Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

God is Unknowable

- ▶ **We only know God if He reveals Himself**
 - 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- ▶ **God has revealed Himself**
 - In creation
 - In the Bible by His names, His attributes, His works

The Attributes of God

Non-moral and Moral
Absolute and Relative

Incommunicable and communicable

- Incommunicable – unique to God alone – transcendent
- Communicable – found in man also – immanent

Incommunicable Attributes of God

- ▶ **Spirit**
- ▶ **Unity/Trinity**
- ▶ **Eternity**
 - eternal
 - self existent
 - self sufficient
 - immutable
- ▶ **Infinity**
 - immensity – omnipresence
 - knowledge – omniscience
 - power – omnipotence

God is Spirit

Scripture

- John 4:24 – God is Spirit
- Luke 24:39 – no flesh and bones
- Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17 – invisible God
- Deuteronomy 4:12 – no form
- 2 Kings 6:8-23 – unseen sphere

Doctrine

- No body parts
- Theophany – John 1:18
 - Hagar – Genesis 16:7-13
 - They saw God of Israel– Exodus 24:9-11
- No idolatry

Unity/Trinity

“As he that denies this fundamental article of the Christian religion may lose his soul, so he that much strives to understand it may lose his wits.”

Dr. South (quoted by W.G.T. Shedd)

Ontological Trinity – unity of essence

- attributes

Economic Trinity – diversity of function

- Father plans
- Son executes
- Spirit applies

Eternity of God

Eternal – no beginning or ending

- Psalm 90:2 – from everlasting to everlasting
- Isaiah 57:15 – inhabits eternity
- Habakkuk 1:12 – Art Thou not from everlasting?
- Exodus 3:14 – “I AM THAT I AM”

Self existent – life in Himself

- John 5:26 – life in Himself
- John 14:6 – I am the life
- Hebrews 7:16 – the power of an endless life

Self sufficient – no need of anything

- Romans 11:35-36 – no need of counsel; source of all
- Psalm 50:10-12 – no need as all belongs to Him
- Philippians 2:13 – man’s “contribution” is God’s work

Eternity of God

Immutable – unchanging

- Malachi 3:6 – I am the LORD, I do not change
- James 1:17 – no variation or shadow of turning
- 1 Samuel 15:29 – not a man that He should repent
- Psalm 102:26-28 (Heb. 1:10-12) – You are the same
- Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, forever

Does God repent?

- Jonah 3:10 – God “repented”
- Genesis 6:6– the LORD was sorry that He had made man . . .
- No change in the character of God – John 6:37
- The Bible uses phenomenological language – sun “rises and sets”

Infinity of God

Immensity – in space – omnipresence

- 1 Kings 8:27 – earth and heaven cannot contain Him
- Psalm 139:7-12
 - No place to get away from God
 - Not dark or light
 - Not hidden places on the earth – womb
 - Not even death
- Jeremiah 23:23-24 – fills heaven and earth
- Acts 17:28 – in Him we live and move and have our being
- Proverbs 15:3 – beholds evil and good in every place

Infinity of God

Omniscience – full knowledge

- Job 38-39 – God’s creation
- Psalm 139:1-6 – my thoughts, my ways, my words
- Psalm 147:5 – infinite understanding
- Romans 11:33-34 – unsearchable judgments
- Acts 15:18 – eternal knowledge
- Hebrews 4:13 - all naked and open before Him
- Ezekiel 11:5 – know the things that come into your mind
- Proverbs 15:11 – hell and destruction and the hearts of men
- Matthew 10:30 – hairs of head are numbered

Infinity of God

Omnipotence – full power

- Isaiah 40:10, 21-26
- Genesis 18:14 – nothing too hard
- Jeremiah 32:17 – Creator . . . nothing too hard
- Jeremiah 32:27 – Is anything too hard for Me?
- Ephesians 1:19-20 – power of resurrection
- Romans 1:3-4 – declared by power of resurrection

Incommunicable Attributes of God

- ▶ **God is unknowable**
 - Job 26:5-14 – the “mere edges of His ways”
 - Psalm 50:21 We judge by ourselves
- ▶ **The Word – only source of knowledge of God**
- ▶ **Seek Him**
 - Psalm 73:25
 - Psalm 63:1,2

Incommunicable Attributes of God

- Ways of God – far above our own
- Humility before God
- Praise Him
- Delight in Jesus Christ