The Revelation of the One True God

The Need for Divine Revelation

Lesson 1

Genesis 3; Psalm 14; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 7, 2015
TBC Sunday School

- Survey the Bible and Doctrine
- Encourage home study
- Encourage memorization of Scripture and hymns
- Keep the family together – same lesson for all
- Old Testament Studies - September to December
- New Testament Studies - January to May
- Doctrinal Studies - June to August
  - Part 1: The Bible, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
  - Part 2: Man, Sin, Salvation
  - Part 3: Angels, Satan, Demons, the Church, the Last Things
2015: 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)
The Need for Divine Revelation

- **Insurmountable obstacles**
  - God is Spirit – outside the human realm – inaccessible
  - Man is a sinner – blocked from access to God
- **God must speak and illuminate**
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

- Are we beginning with the conclusion?
- How do we know the Bible is a true source?
- “Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.”
- We learn that God exists and reveals Himself in the Bible from the Bible
- Why is this the only alternative? Lesson #1
- Why doesn’t this make a weak case? Lesson #12
The Battle for the Bible

- God reveals Himself to us and illuminates us
- The Bible is essential for these operations
- The Bible is under assault by the Devil
- Jeremiah 36 – the Scroll is burned and replaced
- RC Church tried to prevent Bible reading
- Contemporary attacks: science and morality/ethics
The Need for Divine Revelation

- Theology proper – the study of God

- Divine revelation required
  - The nature of God makes revelation absolutely necessary, and makes it happen.
  - Man’s nature makes revelation absolutely necessary, and prevents it from happening.
The Revelation of God

- Futility of rational arguments (e.g. Intelligent Design)
- God revealed by His works - creation and salvation
- God is immense and incomprehensible
  - Job 11:7
  - 1 Timothy 6:13-16
  - Isaiah 55:8-9
  - Isaiah 40:12-26
  - John 1:18
  - Romans 11:33-36
  - Ephesians 1:11
  - John 4:23-25
  - Matthew 11:27
  - Romans 1:20
The Ignorance of Man

- Ephesians 2:1, 5
- Colossians 2:13
- Romans 3:9-18
- Psalm 14
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- 1 John 5:19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-21
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- Romans 8:5-8
Adam and Eve – apex of God’s good creation
- Created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26)
- Created to have dominion (Genesis 1:26)
- Not a partaker of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:45-47)
- Not sufficient alone – needed a helper (Genesis 2:18)

The tempter – father of lies (John 8:33)
- No subtlety – direct contradiction (Genesis 3:4)
- The deception: Genesis 3:5 – eyes opened; like God; know good and evil
The Great Divide – Genesis 3

- Human wisdom v. God’s wisdom
  - Flesh – good for food
  - Eyes – pleasurable
  - Pride – acquire wisdom

- The wages of sin is death
  - Eyes open – saw themselves as God sees them – shame (Isaiah 57:21)
  - They “surely died” (Genesis 2:14) – Ignorant of God – a mighty gulf
  - Personal solution for their shame – “fig leaves”
  - Servile fear of God – hid themselves
  - Self justification – no confession
  - Deception

- The curse – visible reminders of death
  - Woman – pain in childbirth and marriage
  - Man – futility in dominion; physical death
  - Serpent – the long war; termination from God’s creation
So a fool is one that hath lost his wisdom and right notion of God and divine things, which were communicated to man by creation; one dead in sin, yet one not so much void of rational faculties, as of grace in those faculties; not one that wants reason, but abuses his reason.

STEPHEN CHARNOCK
The Need for Divine Revelation

▶ “O the mighty gulf . . .”
  • “Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible . . .”
  • A race of fools who are condemned to their own folly.

▶ “. . . that God did span.”
  • Hebrews 11:6
  • Hebrews 1:1-4
  • Luke 19:10
  • Romans 10:17

▶ “O the grace that brought it down to man”
  • Beware of those who deny the truth of God’s Word
  • 2 Timothy 2:15
  • 1 Corinthians 1:30