

Lesson 9-14

The Doctrine of God

“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

I. What the some of the different philosophies of man concerning the nature of God?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

A. _____. An atheist is one who denies the existence of God (Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:28).

A.W. Tozer said, “Were every man on earth to become an atheist, it could not affect God in any way. He is what he is in himself without regard to any other. To believe in him adds nothing to his perfections; to doubt him takes nothing away.”

B. _____. An agnostic does not deny the existence of God, but denies that man can know for sure one way or another if there is a god.

C. _____. A deist acknowledges that there is a God who created the world and its natural laws, but it denies that God has anything to do with the sustaining of or interaction with His creation. Hence God is the Maker but not the Keeper (Ps. 121).

D. _____. A pantheist believes that God is not a personality, but that all laws, forces and manifestations of the self-existing universe are God. In other words, God is in everything and everything is God.

E. _____. A polytheist believes that there are many gods. This was a very common form of religion among the Greeks and Romans and it is prevalent among many other cultures of the world today (Deut. 5:7; Ex. 15:11; Josh. 23:7).

F. _____. A dualist believes that there are two gods. There is a good god and an evil god. For the dualist, both gods are equal in power and influence and are in constant struggle for dominance and control.

G. _____. A tri-theist believes that the three persons of the Trinity are three separate gods. It is really the result of the natural mind trying to understand the mystery of an eternal God.

H. _____. A monotheist believes in one eternal God who is in control of the universe and can be pleased or angered. Unfortunately, this knowledge alone is insufficient to bring people to a saving knowledge of God (Jam. 2:19).

II. What should be our attitude concerning these differing philosophies?

- A. We should avoid dwelling on mere rational approaches or vain philosophies which are _____(Col. 2:8).
- B. We should realize that natural man will never be able _____ the things of God unless God Himself reveals them to him (I Cor. 2:11-14; Eccl. 8:17).
- C. We should realize that the natural man is likely _____ God in such a way as to sooth his own conscience (Mic. 4:5; Ps. 106:20).
- D. Ultimately any unbiblical approach to explaining God is man's attempt to create God in _____ rather than accepting God's declaration about Himself.

III. What are some of the major attempts to prove the existence of God outside of the Scripture?

There have been many attempts to prove the existence of God apart from Scripture. Philosophers from ancient times have been intrigued by the subject of God.

- A. **The Cosmological Argument.** This is the argument from _____ (Ps. 19:1).
- B. **The Intuitional Argument.** This is the argument from _____. There is an inborn knowledge of God in every person.
- C. **The Teleological Argument.** This is the argument from _____. There is a perfect design in the universe.
- D. **The Anthropological Argument.** This is the argument from the existence of _____. Man must have been created by a being superior to him.
- E. **The Biological Argument.** This is argument from the fact of _____. Life can only come from pre-existent life (John 1:1-4).

IV. What is wrong with trying to prove the existence of God?

- A. This usually ends up in an _____. If people do not have the faith or disposition to believe, they will never find a relationship to God through the mind.
- B. This is something that the Bible itself never does. Nowhere in the Bible is there an

attempt to prove the existence of God.

1. The Bible simply _____, assumes or affirms it (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1).
2. The Bible declares that this knowledge of God is given to _____ (Rom. 1:18-23, 28, 32).

V. How can finite man know the nature and person of an infinite God?

There is only one way for finite man to know the nature and person of an infinite God—God must take the initiative and reveal Himself to man (Job 11:7-9; 37:23).

⁷ “Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything there is to know about the Almighty? ⁸ Such knowledge is higher than the heavens—but who are you? It is deeper than the underworld—what can you know in comparison to him? ⁹ It is broader than the earth and wider than the sea. Job 11:7-9—NLT

A. The knowledge of God is foundational to any approach to God (Heb. 11:6).

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.

B. The knowledge of God alone is insufficient in itself to bring salvation. Even the devils believe (Jam. 2:19).

C. The knowledge of the person and nature of God can only come to man as God reveals it to him (Mt. 11:27; Eph. 4:17-21). God has done this in the Bible—the Word of God.

VI. What are some of the Scriptural definitions of God and what do they have in common?

A. God is _____ (John 4:24; I Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:27; I John 4:12). This is one reason why God forbid any images to be made of Him (Deut. 4:15-18).

B. God is _____ (I John 1:5; I Tim. 6:15-16; Jam. 1:17).

C. God is _____ (I John 4:8). This description reveals the heart of God. He does not have love; He is the personification of love (I Cor. 13:4-8).

D. God is a _____ (Heb. 12:29; Ex. 24:17; Deut. 9:3; 4:24). God often manifest Himself in connection with fire (e.g. The Cherubim and Flaming

Sword, The Burning Bush, the Pillar of Fire, Tongues of Fire).

1. He is a consuming fire in _____ for His people (Deut. 4:24).
 2. He is a consuming fire against _____ that seem as giants (Deut. 9:3).
 3. He is a consuming fire in His _____ and judgment on sin (Is. 33:14; 30:27).
- C. The thing that all of these images have in common is that they are all outgoing, reaching out and dispelling darkness.
1. God is Spirit. He is effulgent and cannot be contained.
 2. God is Light. He is always penetrating and dispelling darkness.
 3. God is Love. He is continually reaching out for an object to love on which to bestow His love.
 4. God is a Consuming Fire. He burns passionately for His people and His eternal purpose.

VII. What does the Bible tell us about the nature of God?

A. God has **Essential Attributes**.

There are certain natural attributes or qualities that belong to God that separate Him from all other being in the universe.

1. God is _____, that is, He has no beginning and no end (Gen. 21:33; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:24-27; Is. 40:28; 44:6; Hab. 1:12; Rev. 11:17).
2. God is _____, that is, He never changes (Num. 23:19; I Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; Jam. 1:17).
3. God is _____, that is, He is totally self-sufficient (John 1:1-3).
 - a. God depends on no one for His existence (Ps. 36:9; John 5:26) because He is the _____.
 - b. God depends on no one for His knowledge (Heb. 4:13; Is. 40:12-14) because He is the _____ and knowledge.
 - c. God depends on no one for His actions (Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24-28) because

there is nothing that He _____.

- d. God depends on no one for His supply (I Tim. 6:15-16; Acts 17:25) because He has need of _____.
4. God is _____, that is, He has power over everything (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17, 27; Mt. 19:26).
 - a. God has power over _____ (Job 9:4-9; Ps. 33:6-9; Na. 1:3-6).
 - b. God has power over _____ (Jam. 4:12-15).
 - c. God has power over all _____ (Dan. 4:35).
 - d. God has power over _____ (Job 1:12; 2:6).
 - e. God has power over _____ (Eph. 1:19-21; I Cor. 15:24-26; Rev. 1:18).
 5. God is _____, that is, He knows everything (Rom. 11:33; I John 3:20). (Note: Much of the following is taken from *What the Bible Teaches* by R.A.Torrey.)
 - a. He sees all that occurs in _____ and keeps watch upon the evil and the good (Pro. 5:21; 15:3; Jer. 32:19; Heb. 4:13).
 - b. He knows everything that occurs _____ (Ps. 147:4-5; Mt. 10:29; 6:8).
 - c. He knows _____ of man (Job 34:21; Pro. 5:21; Jer. 16:17).
 - d. He knows all of man's _____ and experiences (Ps. 33:13-15; 139:2-3).
 - e. He knows all of man's _____ (Ps. 139:4).
 - f. He knows all of man's _____ (Ex. 3:7).
 - g. He knows all our _____ (Ps. 139:1-2; I Chr. 28:9; 29:17; 1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Kin. 8:39; Jer. 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; Rev. 2:23).
 - h. God knows for all eternity what will be for all eternity (Acts 15:18).
 6. God is _____, that is, He possesses all wisdom (Rom. 11:33-

36; 16:27; I Tim. 1:17).

7. God is _____, that is, He is everywhere in the universe at all times (Ps. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23-24).

B. God has **Moral Attributes**.

There are certain moral attributes or qualities that belong to God. These in a sense balance out the essential attributes. What would it be like to have an evil god with such power?

1. God is absolutely _____ (Ps. 22:3; 99:5, 9; Is. 5:16; 6:3; Zeph. 3:5; John 17:11; I Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8-11). God cannot sin and He cannot tolerate sin.
2. God is and has perfect _____ (Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; I John 4:8, 16; Rom. 5:8; 8:39).
3. God is absolutely _____ (I Cor. 1:9; 10:13; I Th. 5:24; Deut. 7:7-9). God is absolutely trustworthy. He always keeps His word. His faithfulness is manifest in several ways.
 - a. In keeping His _____ (Heb. 10:23).
 - b. In _____ His people (I Pet. 4:19).
 - c. In _____ us from the evil one (II Th. 3:3).
 - d. In _____ His children (Ps. 119:75).
 - e. In _____ the work He has started (I Th. 5:23-24).
 - f. In _____ our sins (I John 1:9).
 - g. In _____ our prayers (Ps. 143:1).
4. God is absolutely _____ and **just** (Deut. 32:4; Ezek. 18:19-30; Ezra 9:15; Ps. 116:5; 145:17; Dan. 9:14; John 17:25; Rev. 15:3).
5. God is full of _____ (Ex. 34:5-7; Ps. 86:5; 103:8; 130:7; 145:8-9; Deut. 4:31).

VIII. What does the Bible tell of about God's being?

- A. God is _____. There is one God. He is the one and only God (Deut. 4:35; 6:4; II Sam. 7:22; Is. 43:10; 44:6; 45:5, 14, 18; I Tim. 2:5; Mark 10:18; 12:29; Eph. 4:6).
- B. God has _____ of being. This is seen in several ways.
1. It is seen in the _____ “Elohim” (Gen. 1:1).
 2. It is seen in the use of _____ in relation to God (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7).
 3. It is seen in other scriptural designations (Is. 48:16; 61:1; 63:8-10; Gen 18:1-2, 33).
- C. God is a _____ (I John 5:6-8).
1. This is affirmed by _____ expressions ascribed to God (Is. 6:3; Num. 6:24-26; Rev. 4:8; Mt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 13:14).
 2. This is exemplified in _____ who is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26; I Th. 5:23).
 - a. As God is one, so is man.
 - b. As God is a tri-unity, so man is a tri-unity (spirit, soul, and body).
 - c. As with God, two parts are invisible and one part is visible, so it is with man (spirit and soul).
 3. This is portrayed in Bible types.
 - a. The Tabernacle of Moses was a triune structure consisting of outer court, holy place and most holy place (Exodus 26-27).
 - b. The Lid of the Mercy Seat was a triune structure consisting of two cherubim on either side of the mercy seat (Ex. 25:19). Christ is typified as the mercy seat (Rom. 3:25).
 - c. Aaron’s rod had a triune manifestation of fruitfulness consisting of buds, blossoms and almond fruit (Num. 17:8).
 - d. Noah’s ark was a triune structure (Gen. 6:16).

IX. How are the three persons of the Godhead designated in the Bible?

There are three persons in the Godhead, namely, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT.

A. These three persons are all recognized as God.

1. The Father is God (Rom. 1:7; John 6:27; I Pet. 1:2).

2. The Son is God (Heb. 1:8; Tit. 2:13-14; John 1:1, 14).

3. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4).

B. There is a recognized _____ in the Godhead, but at the same time an equality of person (I Cor. 11:3; Matt. 28:19; Phil. 2:6).

C. These three persons are _____ in Scriptures (Luke 3:21-22; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 10, 13-15; Acts 2:33; 7:55-56; 10:38; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 3:14-16; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 1:2; 3:18; Jude 20-21; Rev. 1:4-5).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. II Corinthians 13:14

Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself through the Scriptures as one God existing in three persons, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible.