

*Our Theology pamphlet in abbreviated form in preparation for next weeks (Sept. 3rd) doctrine study on **Theology Proper**. (Pick up a full copy in the foyer.)*

## **GOD** (Theology Proper – The Biblical Study and Doctrine of God)

### **Introduction:**

If we can accept by faith the very first sentence in the Bible, *“In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1), then everything else will fall into its proper place. To have an accurate biblical worldview we must start with the existence of God.

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God), for he who comes to God must believe that He is (exists), and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* **Hebrew 11:6**

### **A. How Do We Know God Exists?**

Simply put, we know God exists because He wants us to know He exists. He makes His existence known in two main ways; General and Special Revelation.

#### **1. By General Revelation.**

**a) All of creation and all that can be observed reveals God’s existence.**

**Job 9:8-10** (also Job 38 & 39); **Psalm 8:3-4; Psalm 19:1; Amos 4:13**  
**Romans 1:20; Acts 14:15-17**

**b) Our rational mind and inner conscience tell us God exists.**

The Psalmist in **Psalm 14:1** states, “The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” (Psalm 53:1); **Romans 1:18-21** (also 25-28)

**In the end, God’s General Revelation** through creation provokes the rational mind to consider and accept God’s existence.

#### **2. By Special Revelation.**

God reveals more specific spiritual truths to mankind through what we refer to as special revelation. **Daniel 2:28; Amos 3:7**

##### **a) In the Past**

- 1) God spoke directly to specific men, for example Moses. **Exodus 3:15**
- 2) God spoke through messengers such as prophets. **Isaiah 38:1**

**b) In the Present** He speaks primarily through His written word, the Bible.

**Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:14, 18; 1 John 1:1-3**

#### **3. With the Help of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Hebrews 11:6**

**Only a sinful mind blinded by Satan** would cause a person to deny God’s existence and reject the Good News Concerning Jesus. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

### **B. Who Is God?**

God has made known all that He wants us to know about Himself by revelation as recorded in the bible. The bible tells us:

**1. God is Spirit. John 4:24** (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

**2. God is the Creator of Everything. Isaiah 44:24** (Genesis 1:1, 2:4; Acts 17:24; Hebrews 11:3) **Revelation 4:11**

**3. God is the Author of All Life. Psalm 139:14-16; Genesis 2:7**

#### **4. God is a Triune God. (Trinity) - Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

##### **a) In Genesis chapter 1 and 3 we see plural pronouns used.**

“Elohyim” is the Hebrew word translated “God” and is plural.

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” **Genesis 1:26** (Isaiah 6:8; 48:16; 63:10); **Genesis 3:22**

##### **b) At the baptism of Jesus.**

We see Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father all present and uniquely identified. **Luke 3:21-22**

##### **c) At Jesus’ commissioning of His disciples.**

They are told to baptize in the names of our triune God. **Matt. 28:19**

##### **d) At Jesus’ explanation of the Holy Spirit’s work. John 15:26**

##### **e) In a triune benediction recorded by Isaiah. “Holy, holy, holy”**

**Isaiah 6:3** (Revelation 4:8)

**The famous hymn of by Reginald Heber builds on this proclamation.**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**The Athanasian Creed** states; *the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods but one God.*

#### **C. What Is God Like?**

Jesus said to Philip, “Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me? He who has seen Me has seen the Father” **John 14:7-9.** (1:14)

##### **1. God is Loving – I John 4:7-8**

##### **2. God is Good – Psalm 34:8** (Psalm 145:9)

##### **3. God is Gracious – Psalm 145:8** (Ephesians 2:8)

##### **4. God is Merciful – Romans 9:15** (Exodus 33:19)

##### **5. God is Faithful – Deuteronomy 7:9** (2 Timothy 2:13)

##### **6. God is Just – Deuteronomy 32:4**

##### **7. God is Immutable – He Never Changes. Malachi 3:6**

##### **8. God is Omniscient – All knowing. Isaiah 4:9-10**

##### **9. God is Omnipotent – All Powerful. Psalm 33:6-9** (24:8; Ephesians 3:20)

##### **10. God Is Omnipresent – He is present everywhere. Psalm 139:7-10**

(Jeremiah 23:23-24)

#### **D. What Should Be Our Response to God?**

David says: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.” **Psalm 139:6** So, how should we respond to our knowledge of God? **The bible gives us the answer.**

##### **1. Bow in Worship - Psalm 95:6-7**

##### **2. Serve with Gladness - Psalm 100:2-3**

##### **3. Proclaim His Salvation - I Chronicles 16:23-25; I Peter 2:9**

##### **4. Live Godly and Wait Patiently - Titus 2:11-14; Philippians 2:20-21**