

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

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A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 2 – The Doctrine of God

Lesson 14 – Introduction to Theology Proper

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# God Is

- The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. It tells us, “IN THE BEGINNING GOD...”
- The study of God is referred to as “Theology Proper.”
- In examining the Doctrine of God we will study His:
  - 1) Existence
  - 2) Attributes
  - 3) Tri-Unity
  - 4) Works – decreeing, creating, ruling

Sources: MacArthur and Berkhof

# God Is

- The greatest presupposition of theology is that God is, that He exists.
- The Bible begins with a statement that assumes He is, He exists, that He existed before the beginning of all things outside of Himself, and that there is only One God and He is that God.
- The Bible then is God's own testimony about Himself and our only irrefutable proof for His existence.

# God Is

- He is without dependence on anything or anyone else for His life and being.

Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

- He depends upon nothing for His existence.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Acts 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

# God Is

- God is a self-existent, self-conscious, personal spiritual Being who is the origin of all things outside of Himself.
- This can only be accepted by faith based upon the reliable information we find in the Bible.

Hebrews 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.

# God Is

- Can we prove God's existence by rational argument or natural proofs? Not by themselves, no.

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

# God Is

- There is strong evidence of a universal belief in the human mind that there is a "God."

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

# God Is

- To deny the testimony of Scripture is foolishness.

Psalm 10:4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

Psalm 53:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good.



# God Is

- Are Atheists Real?
- Since the Bible tells us that all men are born with a knowledge of God then no one is born an atheist. Atheism then results from a perverted moral state that produces a desire to escape from God.
- The atheist is deliberately blind to and suppresses the most fundamental instinct of man, the deepest needs of the soul, the highest aspirations of the human spirit, and the longings of a heart that gropes after some Higher Being.

# God Is

- Practical Atheists – godless persons who in their practical life do not reckon with God, but live as if there were no God.
- Theoretical Atheists – belief based on an intellectual basis that denies by process of reasoning, seeking to prove by what seem to them conclusive rational arguments, that there is no God.

# God Is

- Three types of theoretical atheists:
  - 1) Dogmatic Atheism – denies that there is a Divine Being.
  - 2) Skeptical Atheism – doubts the ability of the human mind to determine or know whether or not there is a God. (Thus agnosticism is actually a form of atheism, though they deny it).
  - 3) Critical Atheism – states that there is no valid proof for the existence of God.
- False Conceptions of God:
  - 1) Deism – God is impersonal and detached from His creation.
  - 2) Polytheism – God is a personal but finite being.
  - 3) Pantheism – God is the personification of an abstract idea.

# God Is Eternal

- God exists without beginning or end, and without succession of moments in His experience.
- Deut. 33:27 The eternal God *is your* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say, 'Destroy!'
- Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

# God Is Eternal

- Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the Lord, am the first; and with the last I am He.'
- Isaiah 44:6 "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.'
- Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.