

DAILY ORAL THEOLOGY

The What of God

God n.

1. God is Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*

2. We all believe with the heart and confess with the mouth that there is one only simple and spiritual Being, which we call God; and that He is eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, immutable, infinite, almighty, perfectly wise, just, good, and the overflowing fountain of all good. We know Him by two means: First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe; which is before our eyes as a most elegant book, wherein all creatures, great and small, are as so many characters leading us to see clearly His invisible attributes, even His eternal power and Godhead, as the Apostle Paul says (Rom. 1:20). All which things are sufficient to convince men and leave them without excuse. Second, He makes Himself more clearly and fully known to us by His holy and divine Word, that is to say, as far as is necessary for us to know in this life, to His glory and our salvation. *The Belgic Confession*

3. From a presuppositional apologetical perspective, the first point of attack in defending the fortress of Christian theism is the doctrine of God. If that is not our starting point, all arguments fall by the wayside. The writers of our historic confessions nailed it. God can only be properly understood by what He has revealed of Himself in general and special revelation. He is described more pointedly by the *what*, or by His attributes. Because we are creatures and our knowledge is not original but derived, we can only think God's thoughts after what He has deposited of Himself in His book.