

Doctrines 101

Lesson 4

Theology

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: The greatest study that man has ever undertaken is the study of God, which is called Theology. Many people view the study of theology as something only for egg heads at a seminary to scratch their chin over; when in fact it is the expectation and ultimate privilege of every Christian to have a relationship with the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Every other aspect of our lives is subsidiary to a growing knowledge and relationship with God.

The entire purpose behind the teaching of the Bible is the revelation of the Person of God. The primary purpose behind the salvation and redemption of man is to reveal attributes of God's mercy and grace. To go even further, the entire purpose behind the Creation of the universe was to reveal the glory and greatness of God. Through studying and understanding of the Bible and God Himself man becomes able to discern the hand of God in the events and circumstances of life instead of from a hedonistic (pleasure seeking) perspective.

The goal of the Christian is to view every aspect in life as it relates to God. This is known as a "biblical world-view" or looking at the world from a biblical perspective. The great problem with the education and philosophies of this world is that they have a "humanistic world-view". Instead of viewing everything in relation to God they view circumstances and conditions through the eyes of sinful man. "*The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all of his thoughts.*" Ps. 10:4

In order to better understand the Person of God it is necessary to study the different names and attributes of God. Breaking up the study of God into individual attributes allows man to focus upon one particular trait to study. Each of the names and attributes of God gives a fuller description of who He is though we are unable to ever comprehend an infinite God. It is impossible to measure Him or His attributes by any standard because He is incomprehensible.

The attributes of God are commonly divided between communicable and incommunicable attributes. This is a technical way of classifying His attributes into two classes: attributes that man can partake of to some degree and those that are exclusive to God Himself. To be infinite is an incommunicable attribute that God possesses, He alone is eternal and without a beginning. However, mercy is an attribute of God that communicable, though to a lesser degree.

The ultimate revelation of God's attributes is found in the gospel. For example, the mercy of God can best be understood through the plan of redemption and God's mercy toward sinful man. The long-suffering of God is displayed by recognizing His forbearance of the wickedness and rebellion of man against Him. The love of God is seen sending His only begotten Son into the world to die that we might live through Him.

Another way in which God reveals Himself to man is through the use of different names. Besides being called our Father, He is called God, Lord, Jehovah, and other names that reveal different aspects of our relationship to God as the Sovereign of the universe.

Through all of these different methods of study whether through our recognition of God's government of the universe and our individual lives, through His attributes, or through His names: the chief purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever.

Definitions: For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.

English: **God** -

LORD -

Jehovah -

Omnipotent =

Omnipresence =

Omniscience -

Greek: (2316) **theos** *theh'-os*

(2962) **kurios** *koo'-ree-os*

Hebrew: (430) **Elohim** *el-o-heem'*

(3068) **Yehovah** *yeh-ho-vaw'*

(113) **Adonai** *aw-done'*

Quotation: “You may know God but not comprehend Him.” Richard Baxter

“We cannot seek God till we have found Him.” George Swinnock

“God reveals His glorious majesty in the highest heavens, His fearful justice in the hell of the damned; His wise and powerful providence is manifest throughout the whole world; but His gracious love and mercy in, and unto His church here upon earth.” John Robinson

“All things (but lying, dying, and denying Himself) are possible with God.” Christopher Nesse

“God’s center is everywhere, His circumference nowhere.” Thomas Watson

“The carnal mind sees God in nothing, not even in spiritual things. The spiritual mind sees Him in everything, even in natural things.” Robert Leighton

“A heathen philosopher once asked: “Where is God?” The Christian answered: “Let me first ask you, where He is not?” John Arrowsmith

“Your thoughts of God are too human.” Martin Luther

“Though the patience of God be lasting, yet it is not everlasting.” William Secker

“Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the

ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth. And we proclaim an enthroned God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter; then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us for God on His throne is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust.” CH Spurgeon

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith of 1833

Article II The Name, Nature, and Being Of God

London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689

Chapter 2 Of God and the Holy Trinity - paragraphs 1-3

Spurgeon’s Catechism

Questions: 4-6

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is the ultimate privilege of man?
2. Why are all the doctrines of the Bible collectively called Theology?
3. What is the entire purpose behind the creation of the universe?
4. What is a biblical world view?
5. What is the best approach to the study of God?
6. What are three ways that we can study God?
7. Why is the study of God difficult?

8. What is meant by communicable and incommunicable attributes?

9. Why do we study God by His individual attributes?

10. Give 5 incommunicable attributes of God?

Key Scriptures: (*Look up these verses and fill in the blanks*)

Genesis 1:1 God does not bother to argue His existence, He starts His explanation of His plan an purpose with in the beginning ____ .

Exodus 3:14 God illustrates His eternal existence by telling Moses to call Him the ____ . Not I was or I will be but I AM.

Exodus 15:11 Moses wrote a song declaring the greatness of God for His delivering them from Pharaoh. He asks what other God is like Jehovah, glorious in _____ , fearful in _____ , doing _____ .

Exodus 34:6-7 God is described as _____ and _____ , longsuffering, and abundant in _____ and _____ , keeping mercy for thousands and forgiving, but will not clear the _____ .

Deuteronomy 6:4 Though God is a trinity, He is still _____ LORD.

I Kings 8:27 When Solomon dedicated the magnificent temple he realized the greatness and omnipresence of God and that the _____ of heavens could not _____ Him, much less the _____ he had just built for Him.

Psalms 83:18 God is not an impersonal essence but a Person whose name is _____ and He is the _____ over all the earth.

Psalms 90:2 God existed before the earth was _____ and is from _____ .

Proverbs 16:4 The Lord has made all things for _____ even the _____ for the judgment day.

Isaiah 6:3 When Isaiah was taken into the throne room of God he saw angelic beings crying _____ , _____ , _____ which is a possible reference to the Trinity.

Isaiah 46:9-10 God declares that He is the only God and there is _____ else. He defends His claim to be God by

His ability to declare the _____ from the _____ .

Isaiah 48:12 God is the _____ and the _____ .

Jeremiah 10:10 Jehovah is the _____ and _____ God.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 God asks the false prophets if they don't think that He can _____. He reminds them that none can _____ themselves from Him and that He _____ both heaven and earth.

Malachi 3:6 The Lord will not _____ His purpose and promises.

John 4:24 God is a _____ .

John 10:30 Jesus claimed to be _____ with His Father.

I Timothy 1:17 Paul describes God as _____ , _____ , and invisible and is the only God that deserves honor and _____ for ever.

James 1:17 Every good _____ comes from the goodness of God who never changes His mind nor turns around.

I John 5:7 The best verse in the Bible for the Trinity refers to the _____ , the _____ , and the _____ as _____ .

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Psalm 139

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: Exodus 15:11

Personal definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

God -

Personal Confession: (*Study the confessions and summarize them in your own words*)

God and the Trinity -

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*)

Has God ever learned anything?

Extra Credit:

Read the Attributes of God by Arthur Pink