



Doctrines of God

I. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

A. The Importance of Knowing God

1. Necessary for salvation
 - a. To know God is identical with eternal life (John 17:3; 1 John 5:20)
 - b. Both testaments distinguish between those who know God and those who do not know Him.
 - 1) Old Testament (1 Samuel 2:12; 3:7; Job 18:21; Daniel 11:32; Hosea 5:4)
 - 2) New Testament (Galatians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Titus 1:16; 1 John 4:6-8)
2. More important than sacrifices (Hosea 6:6)
3. To reject the knowledge of God is one of the greatest of sins (Hosea 4:1, 6; Romans 1:28)
4. The only cause for glory in man (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
5. The source of the riches of wisdom (Romans 11:33)
6. The cure for the imaginations of the heart (2Corinthians 10:4-5)
7. The way to find the will of God (1 Chronicles 28:9; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9-10)
8. The source of all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:2-4)
9. The main subject that should be taught (2 Chronicles 30:22)
10. The fullness of the future kingdom of God on earth (Isaiah 11:9)

B. The Meaning of Knowing God

1. By definition: to have an idea of the concept of God
2. By existence; to positively believe in the existence of God
 - a. The devils recognize the existence of God (Mark 1:24; James 2:19)
 - b. The world can and should recognize the existence of God (1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 37:20)



3. By description; to understand the basic attributes of God
 - a. Greater than all the gods (Exodus 18:11)
 - b. Alone among the gods (Deuteronomy 4:35)
 - c. To know the manner of the God of heaven (2 Kings 17:26)

4. By fear; to respect the power of God and seek to avoid His judgment (Ezekiel 28:22)
 - a. Known by the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 2:5)
 - b. Exalted among the heathen (Psalm 46:10; Ezekiel 38:23)
 - c. Known by the judgment He executes (Ezekiel 13:9; 23:49; 28:22-26)

5. By faith; to see the goodness of God and put faith in Him
 - a. Because of the creation by the Lord (Psalm 100:3)
 - b. Because of the provision of the Lord (Exodus 16:12; Deuteronomy 29:5-6; Joel 2:27)
 - c. Because of the mercy of the Lord (Deuteronomy 7:9)
 - d. Because of the deliverance of the Lord (1 Kings 20:28; Ezekiel 20:42-44; 34:28-30)
 - e. Because of the preservation and restoration of Israel (Ezekiel 36:23; Ezekiel 39:27-28)

6. By fellowship; to enjoy communion with God on a personal level (Exodus 29:45-46; Jeremiah 24:7; Philippians 3:10)

7. By union; to experience the divine nature through the indwelling of the Spirit of God and the life of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6; 2 Peter 1:2-4).
Note: not that man becomes divine (a false doctrine), but that the life of Christ is lived through us by faith (Galatians 2:20).

C. The Impossibility of Knowing God

1. God is too high
 - a. He is not like anything we know (Psalm 89:6; Isaiah 40:18; 46:9; Acts 17:23)
 - b. He is by definition unsearchable (Job 11:7-8; Job 37:23)
 - 1) His works are unsearchable (Job 5:9)
 - 2) His years are unsearchable (Job 36:26)
 - 3) His greatness is unsearchable (Psalm 145:3)
 - 4) His understanding is unsearchable (Isaiah 40:28)
 - 5) His judgments are unsearchable (Romans 11:33)

2. Man is too low
 - a. Though man was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), the fall of Adam corrupted his nature and took him far away from God (Romans 3:10-18).
 - b. Man is limited by his nature from understanding God on his own (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Job 37:23)



3. But God has revealed Himself to man
 - a. God has come to man as the revealer of secrets (Deuteronomy 29:29; Daniel 2:28-29; 2:47)
 - b. The Spirit of God illuminates our understanding (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:11-12)

D. The Provision for Knowing God

1. General revelation; God's revelation of Himself to all men at all times (Romans 1:18-20)
 - a. Circumstances or Providence (Psalm 75:6-7)
 - 1) Seen in the wrath of God against the wicked (Romans 1:18)
 - 2) Seen in the goodness of God toward all (Matthew 5:45; Luke 6:35; Acts 14:17; Romans 2:4)
 - b. Conscience
 - 1) Something in man telling him that there is a God (Romans 1:19)
 - 2) Reveals the existence of right and wrong: convicting of sin and rewarding righteousness (Romans 2:14-15)
 - 3) In different men may be weak (1 Corinthians 8:7), defiled (Titus 1:15) or seared (1 Timothy 4:2)
 - 4) When kept pure, our conscience can be a helpful guide for living (Acts 23:1; Acts 24:16)
 - 5) Evidence of the working of conscience is seen in the fact that all cultures believe in the existence of some form of a god.
 - c. Creation
 - 1) The teaching of creation (Job 12:7-9)
 - 2) The voice of the heavens (Psalm 19:1-6)
 - a) The glory of God (Psalm 19:1) shows His power.
 - b) The handiwork of God (Psalm 19:1) shows His intelligence.
 - 3) Invisible things clearly seen (Romans 1:20)
 - a) Eternal power
 - i. Eternal – the God who created all things must be before all things and must have eternal existence.
 - ii. Power – the God who created all things must have infinite power in order to create all things.
 - b) Godhead
 - i. A word found only three times in the Bible (Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9).
 - ii. Godhead man may be compared to personhood. It indicates a personal nature (Acts 17:29); one who can think, plan, organize, appreciate beauty, and more.
 - iii. The order, design, and beauty of creation points to a personal God. The variety of creation points to variety in the Godhead—a requirement answered by the trinity.



- d. Note: General revelation reveals to mankind a powerful and personal God who made all things. However, general revelation is very limited in what it reveals about God. For further revelation, man needs special revelation. Only by special revelation can man know how to come to know God; how to get saved from his sins and its consequences.
2. Special revelation
 - a. Miracles; supernatural manifestations of divine power in the natural world
 - 1) Identify the true God (Exodus 7:17; 8:22)
 - 2) Declare the power of God (Joshua 2:9-11)
 - 3) Manifest the glory of God (John 2:11)
 - 4) Confirm the words of God (Mark 16:20)
 - b. Incarnation (John 1:18)
 - c. Dreams; when asleep (Daniel 2:28)
 - d. Visions; when awake (Ezekiel 1:1)
 - e. Prophecies; speaking through men (Numbers 11:25; 1 Samuel 10:6, 10; Jeremiah 20:9)
 - f. Audible words (Numbers 12:6-8)
 - g. Scripture; the written words of God (John 5:39)
 3. God's living revelation of Himself through the person of Jesus Christ
 - a. The Son has declared the unseen God (John 1:14, 18; Colossians 1:15)
 - b. The Son reveals the Father to those He will (Matthew 11:27)
 - c. To know the Son is to know the Father (John 14:7-10; 2 John 1:9)
 - d. We come to know God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6)
 - e. We should then strive to know the Son (Ephesians 4:13-15; Philippians 3:8-10; 2 Peter 3:18)

II. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

A. The Choices Man Must Make

1. First choice: All that exists either came from nothing or from something.
 - a. If it all came from nothing, then there must have been a way for something to come from nothing.
 - b. That all came from nothing is generally rejected by all religions and human philosophies.
2. Second choice: The something that all comes from is either impersonal or personal.
 - a. If impersonal, this something would be impersonal energy, matter, or some other substance.
 - b. An impersonal source would not explain the diversity we see in the world.