

The One True God

Theology Proper

Knowing God

Our Objectives

- Understand the biblical teaching about the Person & Work of God
- Challenge to further study
- Develop a desire to know God better
- Glorify God

The Existence of God

The Existence of God

- Man's intuitive knowledge
 - Universal
 - Necessary
 - Scriptural
 - Rejected
- The Classic Rational Arguments

Two Approaches

- Evidentialist
 - Common pool of facts
 - Careful use of reason
 - Agreement of truth
 - Acceptance of Christ
- Presuppositionalist
 - God's revelation
 - Man's knowledge
 - Man's suppression
 - Man's condition: dead & unable to choose good
 - Necessity of regeneration
 - Spirit's use of the Word
 - Proof of God: impossible & unnecessary

The Cosmological Argument

- Argument from cause & effect
- Contribution: First Cause
- Weaknesses:
 - Begs the question of the need for a first cause
 - Logically, God must have a cause
 - Doesn't demand a single, personal cause

The Teleological Argument

- Argument from order & design
- Contribution: First Cause is intelligent & outside the universe
- Weaknesses:
 - intelligent designer may be finite like his creation
 - Intelligent design doesn't equal a personal God

The Ontological Argument

- Argument from the idea of God
- Contribution: First Cause must be infinite & perfect
- Weakness: can't deduce real existence from abstract thought or imagination

The Moral Argument

- Argument from conscience
- Contribution: First Cause has a moral nature
- Weaknesses:
 - doesn't prove, but assumes moral law is objective
 - doesn't necessarily point to a being of absolute perfections

Different Christian Perspectives on the Classic Proofs

- Force unbelievers to admit God's existence
- Not convince an unbeliever; shows a believer his faith is rational
- No value whatsoever
- Presuppositional Approach

The Biblical Position

- All men believe in the existence of God.
- Existence of God is taken for granted:
 - Gen. 1:1
 - Heb. 11:6
 - Ex. 3:14
- Why?
 - 1 Cor. 1:21
 - Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3, 14, 18)

Why Do We Believe There is a God?

Because God has revealed Himself!

- Generally—through creation & providence
- Morally—through the law written on the heart
- Personally—through the incarnation of His Son
- Propositionally—through His Word
- Savingly—only through the Spirit & the Word

God's Incomprehensibility

God's Incomprehensibility

- A Definition
- God infinitely surpasses what any of His creatures ever perceive Him to be.
- Not—unable to be understood
- Rather—unable to be fully understood

The Biblical Support

- General
 - Job 26:14
 - Is. 55:8-9
 - 1 Cor. 2:10-12
 - 1 Tim. 6:16
- Specific Attributes
 - Being & Nature (Job 11:7-9; Ps. 145:3)
 - Understanding (Ps. 147:5)
 - Knowledge (Ps. 139:1-6)
 - Counsels, Plans, & Decisions (Rom. 11:33-36)

God's Self-Revelation

- Necessary
- Truthful
- Limited
 - Anthropomorphism—attributes human characteristics to God
 - Anthropopathism—attributes human feelings and emotions to God
- Personal

Why Is It Important?

- Great men value it most
 - Moses (Ex. 33:13, 18)
 - David (Ps. 63:1)
 - Paul (Phil. 3:10)
- It has wonderful results
 - Great concern for God's glory (1 Sam. 17:45-46; Dan. 11:32)
 - Great thoughts about God's Person (Is. 40:9-31)
 - Great likeness to God (2 Cor. 3:18)
- God prizes it supremely
 - His indictment of Israel (Hos. 4:1)
 - His gracious gifts (Jer. 31:34; Is. 11:9)
 - His clear statements (Hos. 6:6; Jer. 9:23-24)

What Does It Mean?

- Know who He is
- To have a relationship with Him
- Definition
- To enter into a Father/child relationship with God through salvation (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5)
- To deepen our communion with our Father through spiritual growth (1 John 2:12-14)

How Can We Know God?

- Proverbs 2:1-5
 - 1-4 = if
 - 5 = then
- Through the Word
- Through prayer
- Through intense desire

God's Incomprehensibility--Applied

- Humble Us
 - Job 38:1-18
 - Job 40:1-14
 - Job 42:1-6
- Build trust and confidence in our God
 - Is. 40:27-31