

BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINE

Lesson 2

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD (THEOLOGY PROPER)

The greatest privilege for any believer is knowing God. Jesus, in His high priestly prayer, said in Jn. 17:3, "*And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*" Jesus defined eternal life as "knowing God." The unbeliever does not know God and does not have a relationship with Him. Jesus said in the last days many deceived people will be surprised to discover that their man made religion failed to introduce them to God. Jesus said in Mt. 7:21 "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. 'Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 'And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'*" This lesson is designed to briefly introduce the doctrine of God or theology proper.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

1. Builds humility
2. Builds perspective
3. Helps us live godly lives
4. Gives life meaning
5. Keeps us from sin

God is the totality of all His infinite attributes. To know and understand God's attributes is to know and understand God. Therefore most studies of God focus on His attributes mentioned in the Scriptures. Because God is an infinite being He has many attributes. If you were to try and study all God's attributes in any depth, it would take a life time. Because this is an introductory study we will use the Westminster Shorter Catechism as our outline. There are eleven attributes mentioned in the catechism. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says:

"God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth."

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Below are listed eleven attributes of God. Under each attribute is a series of verses. Look up each verse and write down the key phrase or thought that relates to or helps explain that specific attribute of God. Then in the application section try to write down how that attribute applies to you and why it is important.

1. SPIRIT

John 1:18

John 4:24

II Cor. 3:17

I Tim. 1:17

Application:

2. INFINITE (God is infinite in all His attributes. The verses below relate to His presence i.e, omnipresence, immanence, transcendence.)

I Kings 8:27

Psa. 139:7-12

Jer. 23:23-24

Isa. 66:1

Application:

3. ETERNAL

Gen. 1:1

Psa. 93:2

Isa. 43:10-13

Rev. 1:8

Application:

4. UNCHANGEABLE (Immutability)

Psalm 33:11

Isa. 46:8-11

James 1:17

Application:

5. BEING (The being of God means that He exists.)

Exod. 3:13-14

Psa. 90:1-2

Isa. 44:6

Application:

6. WISDOM

Psa. 147:5

Prov. 2:1-7

Rom. 11:33-36

Rom. 16:27

Application:

7. POWER (Omnipotent)

Gen. 17:1

Jer. 32:17, 27

Luke 1:37

Application:

8. HOLINESS

Psa. 47:8

Isa. 6:3

I Pet. 1:15-16

Rev. 4:8

Application:

9. JUSTICE

Deut. 10:17-18

Psa. 37:28

Psa. 89:14

Application:

10. GOODNESS

Psa. 25:8

Nahum 1:7

Mark 10:18

Application:

11. TRUTH

John 17:17

Titus 1:2

Heb. 6:18

Application:

THE TRINITY – ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS

The doctrine of the Trinity is a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith. The word Trinity describes how the one God has chosen to manifest himself in three distinct persons i.e., the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, each person is distinct from the other two, and yet they all together make up the One God. When the attributes of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are compared to the general attributes of God, it becomes clear that they are all God, and yet the Scriptures teach there is only one God. Below is just a quick survey of the Trinity.

1. There is one God
 - Deut. 4:35, 39

 - Isa. 45:5-6, 14, 21-22

 - Isa. 46:9

2. Allusions to the triune God
 - Gen. 1:26

 - Gen. 3:22

 - Gen. 11:7

3. The Scripture often mentions the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together
 - Mt. 28:19

 - II Cor. 13:14

 - Tit. 3:4-6

4. Jesus is God
 - Jn. 1:1, 14, 18

 - Jn. 20:28

 - Tit. 2:11-14

 - Ex. 3:14 (I AM = Yahweh) cf. Jn. 8:24, 28, 58-59 (Jesus claims to be the I AM)

5. The Holy Spirit is God
 - Acts 5:3-4

 - I Cor. 2:10-11

 - II Cor. 3:17-18

 - Heb. 9:14

 - Jer. 31:31-34 cf. Heb. 10:15-16

 - Heb. 3:7-9 cf. Ex. 16:7; 17:7

PSALM 145

In the chart below is the text of **Psalm 145**. In the blanks to the right write down any attributes of God that you can find in the verse to the left.

#	Verse	Attributes
1	I Will extol Thee, my God, O King; And I will bless Thy name forever and ever.	
2	Every day I will bless Thee, And I will praise Thy name forever and ever.	
3	Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.	
4	One generation shall praise Thy works to another, And shall declare Thy mighty acts.	
5	On the glorious splendor of Thy majesty, And on Thy wonderful works, I will meditate.	
6	And men shall speak of the power of Thine awesome acts; And I will tell of Thy greatness.	
7	They shall eagerly utter the memory of Thine abundant goodness, And shall shout joyfully of Thy righteousness.	
8	The Lord is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.	
9	The Lord is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.	
10	All Thy works shall give thanks to Thee, O Lord, And Thy godly ones shall bless Thee.	
11	They shall speak of the glory of Thy kingdom, And talk of Thy power;	
12	To make known to the sons of men Thy mighty acts, And the glory of the majesty of Thy kingdom.	
13	Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Thy dominion endures throughout all generations.	
14	The Lord sustains all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down.	
15	The eyes of all look to Thee, And Thou dost give them their food in due time.	
16	Thou dost open Thy hand, And dost satisfy the desire of every living thing.	
17	The Lord is righteous in all His ways, And kind in all His deeds.	
18	The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.	
19	He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.	
20	The Lord keeps all who love Him; But all the wicked, He will destroy.	
21	My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord; And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.	

ERRORS ABOUT GOD

- 1. Pantheism**
- 2. Polytheism**
- 3. Limiting God**
- 4. Comparing God**
- 5. Living like God doesn't exist.**
- 6. Thinking God is like man.**
- 7. Living like God is always mad at you.**
- 8. Using God only for emergencies.**
- 9. Failure to get to know God.**
- 10. Thinking that knowing about God is the same as knowing God personally.**
- 11. Rejecting the triune personhood of God.**
- 12. Not having faith in God and His Word.**
- 13. Thinking you can define God any way you want.**

Resources for Further Study

A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* and *The Pursuit of God*
J. I Packer, *Knowing God*
A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*
Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God*