

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



REVELATION

- Since we have now studied revelation and established that the Bible is an infallible, authoritative word from God, we can now use it to prove things about God himself.

DOCTRINE OF GOD

- Attributes of God- Things that we can know about who God is.

CHARLES SPURGEON

It has been said that 'the proper study of mankind is man.' I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God's elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father. There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity. . . . No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind, than thoughts of God. . . . But while the subject humbles the mind, it also expands it. He who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe. . . . Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity. . . . It is to that subject that I invite you this morning.

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

➤ What life is all about!

“What were we made for? To know God. What aims should we set ourselves in life? To know God. What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? Knowledge of God.”

J.I. Packer

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- Should be our number one priority.

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 17:3

A DIFFERENCE

- Knowing About God
- Knowing God

KNOWING ABOUT GOD

- Information
- Facts
- Details
- Just because we know a lot about Him does not mean that we know Him.

BUT...

- Since knowing God is most important, why do we really need to know about Him?
- Can you actually know someone without knowing anything about them?
- Knowledge breeds intimacy.

INFINITE-PERSONAL GOD

- God is both infinite and personal.
- This is key and critical to understand the God that the Bible reveals.

INFINITE

- As the infinite being, God is completely unlike the rest reality.
- Unlike man, animals, plants, or inorganic materials.

PERSONAL

- As the personal being, man stands on the same side as God.
- We were created in His image.

God (infinite)

CHASM

Man

Animals
Plants
Rocks

God (personal)

Man

CHASM

Animals
Plants
Rocks

UNIQUE

- Judeo-Christian God is unique in infinite and personal.
- Pantheistic (Hindu)- Infinite but not personal.
- Greco-Roman- Personal but not infinite.

CAN WE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GOD?

- “Anything that exists in reality objectively (that is something that still exists even when you are not there; it exists independently of your mind) has attributes or properties that make it what it is rather than something else. A God who had no attributes would be simply non-existent. It wouldn't be anything at all.”

SO...

- God must have some sort of attributes or properties that make him what he is rather than something else.
- To know those attributes that are revealed in Scripture is why we started with Revelation

4 INFINITE ATTRIBUTES

1. Self-Existence
2. Eternity
3. Omnipresence
4. Immutability

SELF-EXISTENCE

➤ Scriptural Data

1. God is the source of all reality outside himself.
2. God not only create the world, but he also preserves it in being.
3. God is the source, the sustainer, and the goal of all reality outside himself.
4. God just exists, He doesn't have a cause or an explanation.
5. All of the same qualities are applied to Christ in the New Testament.

SELF EXISTENCE

- God is the source of all reality outside himself.
- God is set apart as uniquely self-existed and uncreated.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

JOHN 1:1-3

ESV

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

REVELATION 4:11

ESV

All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

ISAIAH 40:17-23

ESV

SELF-EXISTENCE

- God not only create the world, but he also preserves it in being.

“You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”

NEHEMIAH 9:6

ESV

SELF-EXISTENCE

- God is the source, the sustainer, and the goal of all reality outside himself.

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

ROMANS 11:36

ESV

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom
all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory,
should make the founder of their salvation
perfect through suffering.

HEBREWS 2:10

ESV

SELF-EXISTENCE

- God just exists, He doesn't have a cause or an explanation.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or
ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

PSALM 90:2

ESV

God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

EXODUS 3:14

ESV

SELF-EXISTENCE

- All of the same qualities are applied to Christ in the New Testament.

For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 CORINTHIANS 8:5-6

ESV

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

HEBREWS 1:1-3A

ESV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

ESV

SYSTEMATIC SUMMARY

“What we want to say on the basis of this material is that God is a self-existent being. That is to say, all of finite reality depends upon God for its creation, for its present existing, and for its future being. He brings it into existence, he sustains it in being, and it will remain in being so long as he sustains it and conserves it into the future. In other words, all of reality outside of God is shot through with a radical dependence. It is in existence only so long as God creates and sustains its existence. Were he to withdraw his creative power, the universe would be annihilated in a blink of an eye.”

ILLUSTRATION

- A Dream
- Only exists as long as we let it
- If there was no God, there would be no universe.
- If there was no universe, God would be no be affected.

NECESSITY

- God is metaphysically necessary.
- Which mean his non-existence is impossible.
- God does not just happen to exist, rather he has to exist.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS - #1

- If God is a being, then he is just one being among other beings.
 - Necessary existence
 - Contingent existence

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS - #2

- Where did God come from?
 - God is necessary.
 - Why are all bachelors single?
 - It is impossible for God not to exist.
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SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS - #2 CONT

- If there is no God, where did the universe come from?
- Without God, the universe is necessarily existent and uses the same argument.
- Man tries to substitute the create in the place of the creator.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

ROMANS 1:20-23

ESV

NEXT WEEK

- Read:
 - Defenders 2-3- 3 & 4: Doctrine of God, pg. 18-33
(Divine Attributes, Infinite: Eternity)

QUESTIONS?

