

## **Systematic Theology - Lesson 3**

### **The Existence and Attributes of God (Part 1)**

#### **I. Introduction**

- Two main questions we will address:
  1. Is there a \_\_\_\_\_?
  2. What is God \_\_\_\_\_?

#### **II. God's Existence - Biblical Presupposition**

1. The Bible does not \_\_\_\_\_ the existence of God.
2. A materialist doesn't argue the existence of matter.
3. Christian Worldview: He is there, and He is not \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **III. He Has Revealed Himself**

God has revealed Himself in four ways:

- Generally: to all men by \_\_\_\_\_
- Propositionally: in the \_\_\_\_\_
- Personally: in His Son, Jesus
- Savingly: Through the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit

#### **IV. General and Special Revelation**

##### **A. Two Types of Revelation**

1. **General Revelation:**
  - Given to all people, everywhere, at all \_\_\_\_\_
  - Through ordinary experience of life in God's world
2. **Special Revelation:**
  - God's particular \_\_\_\_\_ and words
  - Especially through Scripture and Jesus

##### **B. What Does General Revelation Teach Us?**

From Romans 1:18-32 and Acts 17:22-31, general revelation teaches:

- God is \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:26; Romans 1:20)
- God is \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 19; Acts 17:25)
- God is eternal and independent (Romans 1:20, Acts 17:25)
- God is invisible and powerful (Romans 1:20)

- God, though distinct from it, is active in the universe (Acts 17:24, 26-27)
- God sustains all things (Acts 17:24-28, 14:15-16)
- God is \_\_\_\_\_, the ultimate source of our values (Romans 1:32)

### C. General Revelation is Clear

We know these truths simply by:

- Being made in God's \_\_\_\_\_
- Living in His created world This knowledge is natural, clear, and inescapable.

### D. The Problem - Noetic Effects of Sin

- All men know God, but not all men \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- Truth: There are no atheists. Only those who argue the nature of God.
- Romans 1–2 shows we \_\_\_\_\_ truth.
- The Fall warped our minds (noetic = of the mind).

### E. General Revelation = Guilty

- Creation confronts us with truth: "Do you not see? Do you not understand?"
- Romans 1:20 – We are without \_\_\_\_\_
- We can ignore it—but we can't escape it.

## V. Attributes of God

### A. Why Study God's Attributes?

- Sin blinds and distorts our perception of God.
- To know what God is really like, we must look at his self-revelation in \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. Two Categories of God's Attributes

- \_\_\_\_\_: Belong to God alone
- Communicable: Reflected in us, though imperfectly

## VI. Incommunicable Attributes

### A. God's Independence

- God is self-existent and self-\_\_\_\_\_
- God needs nothing and is not dependent on anything outside Himself.
- Encouragement: Because He needs nothing, He is always available and dependable.

### **B. God's Immutability (Unchanging Nature)**

- God's nature, character, and purposes never change.
- Unlike us, God doesn't revise His plans, isn't caught off guard, and doesn't need contingency plans.
- Application: He is our \_\_\_\_\_ in a changing world.

### **C. God's Impassibility**

- God has real emotions, but is not \_\_\_\_\_ by them.
- He is not surprised or overwhelmed.
- God chooses to grieve, love, or be angry.
- His passions are holy and sovereign.

### **D. God's Infinity (Omnipresence)**

- God is present in the fullness of His being at every point in space, at all times.
- God is \_\_\_\_\_, not confined to matter or dimensions.
- Biblical truth: God minus the world = God (God is distinct from His creation).

### **E. God's Omnipotence**

- God is able to do all that He wills to do in perfect consistency with His character.
- God's omnipotence is not the ability to do the logically \_\_\_\_\_ or morally contradictory.
- God cannot \_\_\_\_\_, cannot disown Himself, cannot cease to be God.

### **F. The Eternal Nature of God**

- God has no beginning and no end. He exists outside the bounds of time.
  - God doesn't just exist through time—He \_\_\_\_\_ time.
  - He existed before creation and will never cease to exist.
  - God doesn't "look forward" to the future or "remember" the past—He simply knows all perfectly and constantly.
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**Answer Key (Fill-in-the-Blanks)**

1. God
2. Word
3. God
4. Like
5. Argue
6. Silent
7. Creation
8. Scriptures
9. Jesus
10. Holy
11. Times
12. Acts
13. One
14. Creator
15. Moral
16. Image
17. KNOW
18. Suppress
19. Excuse
20. Scripture
21. Incommunicable
22. Sufficient
23. Rock
24. Ruled
25. Spirit
26. Absurd
27. Lie
28. Transcends