



Theology: Who is God?

Lesson #4 Outline

I. Introduction – Theology – Who is God?

- A. Theology: The study of the existence, nature, and attributes of God
- B. The Ultimate Source of Truth – Colossians 2:2-3 "Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
- C. Westminster Confession – trying to capture the infinite essence of God's nature

II. What is Eternal Life?

- A. Scriptural emphasis on eternal life – Luke 18:18, John 3:16, John 4:13-14, John 5:24, John 5:39-40, John 6:27, John 6:54
- B. "Now this is eternal life ..." John 17:1-3 "... that they may know you ..."
- C. Spurgeon's and Paul's perspective – "I want to know Christ ..."
- D. God's perspective – Hosea 6:6, Jeremiah 9:23-24 ... that he knows me ..."
- E. Connection between knowledge of God and knowledge of self

III. Meaning of Names

- A. Names of God – El Qanna – A jealous God – Deuteronomy 4:23-24, Zechariah 8:2, Exodus 34:14
- B. Jacob, Abram, Moses, Simon, Saul, John, Jesus
- C. Your name – Your identity in Christ and as a child of God

IV. The Attack

- A. The Battle – 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself against the knowledge of God ..."
- B. On God – His nature, His character
- C. On His Word – Throughout history men have tried to destroy God's Word
 1. Jesus Seminar – democratic voting process on God's Word
 2. Ezekiel 22:26-28 – "... her priests have done violence to my law ..."
 3. Joram and Jehoram – Unraveling a supposed conflict – Can you trust the Word of God? – "The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings"

V. Conclusion – God's word can be trusted

- A. 1 Peter 1:24-25 "... the word of the Lord stands forever."
- B. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active ..."

"For this I have been born... to testify to the truth..." (John 18:37)

Recommended Reading

- Boice, James M. (ed). 1974. *God's Inerrant Word: An International Symposium on the Trustworthiness of Scripture*. Minneapolis, MI: Bethany Fellowship.
- Boice, James M. (ed). 1978. *The Foundation of Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Jukes, Andrew. 1888, reprinted 1978. *The Names of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.
- Kuyper, Abraham. 1908, translated 1924, reprinted 1979. *To Be Near Unto God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Pink, A. W. 1972. *Interpretation of the Scriptures*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- Pink, A. W. 1972. *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- Pink, A. W. 1972. *The Divine Inspiration of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- Sproul, R. C. 1985 *The Holiness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
- Stott, John R. W. 1958, reprinted 1980. *Basic Christianity*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.
- Tozer, A. W. 1961. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. Lincoln, NE: Back to the Bible Broadcast.

Key Terms - Week #3

Deism: The belief that God created the universe and has since assumed no control over life, exerted no influence on nature, and given no supernatural revelation.

El Qanna: A name of God: "For the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). See also Deuteronomy 4:23-24 and Zechariah 8:2

Eternal Life: To know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He sent to earth. A deeply personal and intimate relationship. See John 17:3.

Jesus Seminar: Started in 1985 in Berkley, California, by Robert Funk and thirty-five other liberal New Testament scholars. The Seminar,--which now includes about 100 members--meets twice a year to debate technical papers. At the close of debate on each agenda item, members vote using colored beads to indicate the degree of authenticity of Jesus' words or deeds.

Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918): A 19 th century German liberal scholar who suggested the Documentary Hypothesis (JEPD), which theorizes that the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) was not written by Moses but evolved over time and was compiled from at least four sources written by various authors. Numerous scholars have refuted the theory.

Pantheism: Belief that God and the material world are one and the same thing and that God is present in everything; pantheism sometimes entails belief in many deities. A form of spiritual naturalism.

Theism: Belief that God created and governs humans and the world.

Theology: The study of the existence, nature, and attributes of God.

Westminster Confession of Faith: A confession of faith drawn up by the 1646 Westminster Assembly, which remains a standard of doctrine within many Protestant, churches. The full confession took more than five years to complete and provides advice on issues of worship, doctrine, government, and discipline for the church.

Scriptural References - Week #3

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| Col 2:3 | John 3:16 | Luke 18:18 | John 4:13-14 |
| John 5:24 | John 5:39-40 | John 6:27 | John 6:54 |
| John 17: 1-3 | Phil 3:8-10 | Hosea 6:6 | Jer 9: 23-24 |
| Deut 4: 23-24 | Zech 8:2 | Ex 34:10-17 | Gen 32:28 |
| Gen 17:5 | Luke 1:13 | Psa 42:1-2 | 2 Cor 10:4-5 |
| 1 Pet 1:24-25 | Ezek 22:26-28 | 1 King 16:29 | 2 King 8:16 |
| 2 King 1:17 | 2 King 3:1 | Heb 4:12 | |