

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Systematic Theology Course

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VOLUME 5 150

The Doctrine of God

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Existence of God

Volume 5 - Unit 1

I. The Biblical Statements

II. The Traditional Proofs

- A. Ontological (Anselm)
- B. Cosmological (Aquinas)
- C. Prime Mover (Aquinas)
- D. First Cause (Aquinas)
- E. Teleological or Design (Aquinas)
- F. Moral (Kant)
- G. Personal Experience

III. Grounds for Disbelief

- A. Uniformitarianism, reflected in:
 - 1. Geology (Chas. Lyell)
 - 2. Biology (Chas. Darwin)
 - 3. Sociology (Emile Durkheim)

4. Psychology (Sigmund Freud)

B. The Problem of Evil and Pain

1. Atheistic existentialism

2. Epicurean dilemma

3. Dualism

4. Deism

5. Illusion

6. Charismatic theory

7. Scriptural view

IV. The Christian Hypothesis

$$\frac{1}{10^{10}} \times \frac{1}{10^{10}} \times \frac{1}{10^{10}} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{\infty} = 0$$

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Psalm 14:1 – “The fool has said in his heart, There is no God.

Essence of God - Part 1

Volume 5 - Unit 2

I. Definition

That which underlies all outward manifestation. The reality itself, whether material or immaterial. The substratum.

II. The Qualities

A. Spirituality - God is a spiritual substance. Key verse: John 4:24 - What does this mean?

1. He is immaterial and incorporeal.

Luke 24:39

What about hands (Isaiah 65:2)?

What about feet (Genesis 3:8)?

What about eyes (I Kings 8:29)?

What about ears (Nehemiah 1:6)?

Anthropomorphisms.

2. He is invisible. Deuteronomy 4:15-19

Exodus 33:20

John 1:18

Romans 1:20, Colossians 1:15, I Timothy 1:17

I Timothy 6:16

But did not some men see God? Jacob (Genesis 32:30) Moses (Exodus 3:6) Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1)

a. Saw His reflection - not His essence. (Exodus 33:20-23)

b. God manifests Himself in physical form. (John 1:32, Genesis 16:7-14, 22:11-18, Exodus 3:2-5)

Will the redeemed see God some day?

Matthew 5:8

Revelation 22:4

3. He is alive.

a. "The living God" (Joshua 3:10, Psalms 84:2, Matthew 16:16, I Thess 1:9)

b. God lives vs. heathen idols which are dead (Psalms 115:3-9)

4. He is a person. A person has:

a. Intellect

Acts 15:18

Romans 11:33-34

b. Sensibility

John 3:16

Genesis 6: 6

Deuteronomy 1:37

Exodus 20: 5

Psalms 111:4

c. Will

Romans 9:11

Romans 9:15

II Peter 3:9

I Corinthians 1:21

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - John 4:24 – “God is spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

Essence of God - Part 2

Volume 5 - Unit 3

B. Self-existence - God has the ground of His existence in Himself. He is not dependent for His existence on anything outside of Himself.

The name JEHOVAH (YAHWEH):

1. The one true God. (Isaiah 45:18)

2. The sacred tetragrammaton:

יהוה = Yahweh
יהוה = Adonai

3. The Masoretic device (illustrated in English -roughly)

D N (Adonai)
uh o a

Y H W H (Yahweh)
uh o a

4. The meaning of the name (Exodus 3:14, 6:3)

C. Immensity - God's infinity in relation to space. Not limited or circumscribed by space. Space, rather, is dependent on Him.

I Kings 8:27

Isaiah 6 6:1

D. Eternity - God's infinity in relation to time - without beginning or end. He is the cause of time. Free from all succession of time.

Genesis 21:33

Psalms 90:2

Psalms 102:27

Isaiah 57:15

I Timothy 6:18

John 1:1

God sees the past and the future as vividly as the present!

Isaiah 46:10

E. Unity

1. Singular unity. God as set apart from other beings.

I Kings 8:60

I Corinthians 8:6

Deuteronomy 6:4

Exodus 15:11

2. Intrinsic unity. Freedom from division into parts.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.” (*Note: LORD in this verse is the name Yahweh.*)

Attributes of God
Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence
Volume 5 - Unit 4

I. Definition

The qualities that inhere in the essence - a closer description and analysis of the essence. Attributes are not different parts of God - but descriptions of the various ways in which the divine essence exists and operates.

A. Omnipresence

1. Definition - God's infinity in relation to His creation and creatures.

2. Contrast:

Immensity - God transcends all space and is not subject to its limitations (transcendence).

Omnipresence - God fills every part of space with His entire being (immanence).

3. Heresies to avoid

a. Pantheism: The being of God is the substance of all things.

b. Deism: God is present in creation but not in nature. He acts from a distance.

4. Classic scriptures

Psalms 139:7-12

Jeremiah 23:24

5. Application

B. Omniscience

1. Definition

a. Knowledge: God knows all things:

actual or possible

past, present, or future

hidden or revealed (to man)

perfectly

from all eternity

immediately

simultaneously

exhaustively

b. Wisdom: "That perfection of God whereby He applies His knowledge to the attainment of His ends in a way that glorifies Him most. " (Berkhof)

2. Classic scriptures

Proverbs 15:11

Psalms 147:5

Isaiah 46:10

Romans 4:17

Hebrews 4:13

Psalms 139:1-6

Matthew 11:21

Matthew 11:23-24

3. Independent of omnipotence, foreordination

4. Application

C. Omnipotence

1. Definition - God is able to do whatever He wills to do. This will is always in harmony with His perfections.

God cannot:

look upon iniquity (Habakkuk 1:13)

deny Himself (II Timothy 2:13)

lie (Hebrews 6:18)

commit sin (Jas 1:13)

2. Classic scriptures

Genesis 17:1

Job 42:2

Matthew 19:26

Jeremiah 32:27

Psalms 115:3

3. Voluntary limitations

II Peter 3:9

Matthew 23:37

4. Application

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Jeremiah 32:27 – “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?”

Attributes of God
Immutability, Holiness
Volume 5 - Unit 5

D. Immutability

1. Definition - God is unchangeable in:

essence

attributes

consciousness

will

2. Classic scriptures

James 1:17

Malachi 3:6

Hebrews 13:8

3. The problem of "repentance"

Genesis 6:6

Exodus 32:14

a. Anthropopathism

b. Conditional promises

4. Application

E. Holiness

1. Definition - God is absolute perfection in all His attributes, absolutely separate from moral evil and sin. Purity of being -purity of willing.

2. Classic scriptures

Isaiah 57:15

Habakkuk 1:13

I Peter 1:15-16

The entire OT sacrificial system

Isaiah 6

3. Application

Isaiah 59:2

Hebrews 12:14

Romans 3:10

Romans 3:23

Hebrews 12:28

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Isaiah 6:3 – “Holy, holy, holy (infinitely holy) is the LORD of hosts.”

Attributes of God
Righteousness, Justice, Truth
Volume 5 - Unit 6

F. Righteousness and Justice

1. Definition - That phase of the holiness of God which is seen in His treatment of the creature. He is absolutely fair and always right. (Impossible for Him to do anything wrong or unfair.)

Righteousness: The institution of moral laws and standards.

Justice: The implementation of those laws and standards, i. e. rewards and punishment.

2. Classic scriptures

Ezra 9:15

Nehemiah 9:8

Psalms 145:17

II Timothy 4:8

Genesis 18:25

Romans 2:11

3. Areas of justice

a. Rewards

I John 1:9

II Timothy 4:8

Nehemiah 9:7-8

b. Punishment

Revelation 16:5

Revelation 20:11-15

c. Sovereign choice

Romans 9:14

4. Application

G. Truth

1. God is genuine

I John 5:20

Isaiah 45:8f.

Isaiah 40:18f.

2. God is reliable (trustworthy, faithful).

Hebrews 6:18

I John 1: 9

I Corinthians 10:13

John 17:17 - God's written word also.

3. God sees things as they really are.

Cf. omniscience.

Galatians 6:7

Hebrews 4:13

4. Application

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Genesis 18:25 – “. . . shall not the judge of all the earth do right?”

Attributes of God
Goodness
Volume 5 - Unit 7

H. Goodness - Omnibus term - including:

Love

Mercy

Grace

1. Love

a. Definition - God is infinite affection, i.e. has a continuous, infinite concern for the well being of others.

I John 4: 8, 16

b. Within the Trinity

Matthew 3:17

John 17:24

c. Toward believers

John 14:21

John 17:23

d. Toward the world of sinners

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

e. Principal manifestation

I John 4:9-10

John 3:16

2. Mercy

a. Definition - God's goodness manifested toward those in misery or distress. (Synonymous with compassion, pity, lovingkindness.)

b. Classic scriptures

Ephesians 2:4

James 5:11

3. Grace

a. Definition - God's goodness manifested toward the undeserving (unmerited favor).

b. Common grace

(1) Longsuffering in punishing sin

II Peter 3:9

Romans 2:4

(2) General care of His creatures (benevolence)

Psalms 145:9

Psalms 145:15

Matthew 5:45

(3) Restraint of sin

II The s 2:6

Romans 13

(4) Provision of salvation

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

John 16:8-11

c. Efficacious grace - God's special grace toward "the elect"

Romans 8:29-30:

foreknowledge

predestination

calling

justification

glorification

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God - not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Note: In the statement - " . . and that not of yourselves . . ", that refers to salvation, not faith.

The Trinity

Volume 5 - Unit 8

I. Definition

There are three eternal distinctions in the one divine essence, known as:

Father

Son

Holy Spirit

II. The Term Itself

-Greek trias - first used by Theophilus of Antioch

-Latin trinitas - first used by Tertullian

Doctrine not dependent on terminology!

III. Heresies – *Every Heresy Denies the Doctrine of the Trinity!*

A. Tritheism

B. Sabellianism

C. Unitarianism

IV. Origin of the Doctrine

V. Biblical Support

A. Old Testament Intimations

1. Elohim

2. Plural pronouns of deity Genesis 1: Z6

3. A plural Jehovah

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Zech 3:Z

4. A distinct Spirit of God

Genesis 1:1-Z

Genesis 6: 3

B. New Testament Teaching

1. Christ's baptismal scene

Matthew 3:16-17

2. Baptismal formula

Matthew 28:19

3. Apostolic benediction

II Corinthians 13:14

4. Apostolic salutation

Revelation 1:4f.

5. Christ's announcement of the coming Holy Spirit John 14:16

6. Revealed deity of each

a. Father

Romans 1: 7

Galatians 1:1

b. Son

John 1:1

Colossians 2:9

John 8:58

c. Holy Spirit

Acts 5:3-4

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - II Corinthians 13:14 – “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Works of God - The Divine Decrees - Part 1

Volume 5 - Unit 9

I. Definition

God has an eternal purpose for everything that happens. The ultimate goal: His own glory.

II. Classic Scriptures

Isaiah 14:24, 26-27

Ephesians 1:11

Ephesians 3:11

I Peter 1:20

Revelation 13:8

Ephesians 1:4

II Timothy 1:9

III. The Order of the Decrees

A. To Create

Hebrews 11:3

Genesis 1:1

Psalms 33:6-11

B. To Permit Sin (Establish Volition) John 4:23

C. To Overrule Sin for Good Genesis 50:20, Psalms 76:10

D. To Save Some from Sin

E. To Reward His Servants and Punish the Disobedient

IV. The Doctrine of Election and Predestination

A. Predestination

1. Definition (proorizo) - God has determined from eternity past the destiny of the elect, i.e. to be a part of the family of God and ultimately to be conformed to the image of Christ.

2. Classic scriptures

Ephesians 1: 5

Ephesians 1:11

Romans 8:29-30

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Romans 8:29-30 – “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called, and whom He called, them He also justified, and whom He justified, them He also glorified.”

Works of God - The Divine Decrees - Part 2
Volume 5 - Unit 10

B. Election

1. Definition - God, in eternity past, has chosen certain individuals to be eternally His and to enjoy a predetermined future in His presence.

2. Classic scriptures

Ephesians 1:4

Colossians 3:12

I Peter 1:2

Matthew 20:16, 22:14

Matthew 24:22, 24, 31

I Thessalonians 1:4

3. The basis

a. Calvinism

(1) Total depravity

(2) Unconditional election

(3) Limited atonement

(4) Irresistible grace

(5) Perseverance of the saints

b. Arminianism

(1) Prevenient grace

(2) Conditional election

(3) Unlimited atonement

(4) Resistible grace

(5) Possible fall from grace

c. Strengths and weaknesses of the major views

d. A proposed mediating hypothesis

(1) The volitional mechanism

(2) The choice of the "positive"

(3) The "jamming" of the mechanism

(4) The efficacious call

(5) The eternal security of the elect

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Ephesians 1:4 – “He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

Origin & Nature of Man - The Naturalistic View
Volume 5 - Unit 11

I. The Evolutionary View

1. Non-life
2. Single cell
3. Multi-cellular organisms
4. Invertebrates
5. Vertebrates (fishes)
6. Amphibians
7. Reptiles
8. Mammals and birds
9. Primates
10. Man

The last step:

- a. Propliopithecus (30 million years ago)
- b. Dryopithecus (19 million years ago)

- c. Ramapithecus (12 million years ago)
- d. Australopithecus (4 million years ago)
- e. Homo erectus (1 million years ago)
- f. Homo sapiens (500, 000 years ago)

II. The Human Fossil Evidence

A. Australopithecus

- 1. Taung skull
- 2. Natron mandible
- 3. Swartkrans

B. Homo erectus (Pithecanthropus erectus)

- 1. Peking man
- 2. Java man
- 3. Heidelberg man

C. Homo sapiens

- 1. Cro-magnon man
- 2. Neanderthal man

3. Rhodesian man

4. Swans comb man

D. The Uncertainties

E. The Overlapping and Contradictory Dates

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Genesis 1:26 – “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . .”

Origin, Nature, & Destiny of Man - The Biblical View
Volume 5 - Unit 12

I. Special Creation

II. The Age of Man

III. The Image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)

A. Intellect

B. Sensibility

C. Will

D. Original Holiness

E. Immortality

F. Lord of Creation (Genesis 1:26, Psalms 8:5-6)

IV. The Material Part of Man

A. Body = Prison House of Soul

B. Body = Whole Man

C. Body = Partner of Soul

I Corinthians 6:19-20

II Corinthians 5:10

Philemon 1:20

Thus: Romans 12:1-2

V. The Immaterial Part of Man

A. Composition

1. Unity (Holism)

Genesis 2:7

Ezekiel 18:4

Psalms 23:3

Psalms 25:1

Etc.

Evaluation:

2. Trichotomy

-Body

-Soul

-Spirit

I Thessalonians 5:23

Hebrews 4:12

3. Dichotomy

Genesis 41:8 - Psalms 42:6

Luke 1:46-47

Mark 12:30

Eccl 3:21

I Corinthians 5:3, III John 2

4. Solution?

BODY

SOUL	∴	SPIRIT
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B. Transmission

1. Pre-existence

2. Creationism

Hebrews 12:9

Ecclesiastes 12:7

3. Traducianism

Evaluation:

VI. God's Purpose for Man

John 4:23-24

Revelation 21:3

VII. The Fall

A. Curse upon natural creation ----- → man's lack of dominion ----- → man vs. creation (Hebrews 2:8)

B. Mortality ----- → physical death (Romans 5:12, Hebrews 9:27)

C. Spiritual death ----- → the second death (Revelation 20:14)

D. Adamic nature ----- → personal sins (Romans 3:23)

VIII. God's Salvation vs. Adam's Sin

A. Curse on nature ----- → Lifted, New Heavens, New Earth (II Peter 3:13), man's dominion restored (Hebrews 2:6f.)

B. Mortality ----- → Immortality (I Corinthians 15:51f.)

Physical death ----- → Resurrection (I Corinthians 15:23)

C. Spiritual death -----→ Reconciliation (Ephesians 2:1)

Second death -----→ No condemnation (Romans 8:1)

D. Adamic nature -----→ Control now (Romans 6:6)

-----→ Removal eventually (Revelation 21:27)

Personal sins -----→ Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Genesis 2:7 – “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”