

Bible Doctrines 1

Session 1 - Intro to Theology & Revelation



I. What is theology?

- A. It literally means “God-thought” or “reasoning about God”.
- B. Christian Theology is framed by the revelation of God in Scripture.
- C. Theology is for everyone!
- D. It is the primary objective of life.
 - 1. Deut. 6:5 (Matt. 22:37-38)
 - 2. Ps. 42:2
 - 3. Ps. 63:1
 - 4. Ps. 73:25

II. Why study theology?

- A. To know God (Jer. 9:24)
- B. To know Christ (John 20:30-31)
- C. To know God’s Thoughts (Dt. 29:29; Job 11:7; Is. 55:8-9)
- D. To promote Sound Doctrine and Refute False Teaching (2 Tim. 4:2-3; Tit. 1:9; 1 John 4:1)
- E. To live a Life Approved and to Be Equipped (2 Tim. 3:17)
- F. To be Filled with Wisdom & Knowledge (Col. 1:9)
- G. To lead people to the possession of eternal life (1 Tim. 2:4)
- G. To Generate True Worship of God (Rom. 11:33-36)

III. The Knowledge of God

- A. The possibility of the knowledge of God
 - 1. Incomprehensible - (Job 11:7; Is. 40:18)
 - 2. Knowability - (Jer. 9:24; John 14:7; 17:3; 1 John 5:20)
- B. Characteristics of the knowledge of God
 - 1. It’s Source -
 - 2. It’s Content -
 - 3. It’s Progressiveness - the knowledge of God has been revealed _____
- C. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

1. God _____ His Self-revelation
2. God gave _____ for communication
3. He created man with _____
4. He gave His _____

IV. Bibliology Introduction

Bibliology is the study of the nature and key characteristics of the Bible. It also includes the study of the different forms of God's self-revelation. (Zuber, p. 45).

HOW DOES GOD COMMUNICATE WITH US?

V. General Revelation

A. Characteristics of General Revelation

1. It is general (all people @ all times)
 - a. In scope...it reaches all people (Matt. 5:45)
 - b. In geography...entire globe (Ps. 19:2)
 - c. In methodology...universal means (Ps. 19:4-6); human conscience (Rom. 2:14-15)
 - d. Can bring light, truth, and even condemnation to all

B. The Avenues of General Revelation (through creation, organization, man, being)

1. Through Creation

- a. Cosmological argument:
 1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause
 2. The universe began to exist
 3. The universe has cause
- b. If the cosmos didn't generate itself then there must be something eternal that caused it (chance or an eternal being)
- c. Ps. 19:1-6 (communicating the glory and greatness of God)
 1. The _____ of revelation through creation (v. 1-2)
 2. The _____ of this revelation is the universe (v. 4)
 3. The _____ of this revelation is clear through non-verbal (v. 3)
 4. The _____ is everywhere and to everybody (v. 4-6)
- d. Rom. 1:19-20
 1. The _____ of His wrath (v. 18)
 2. The _____ for His wrath (v. 19-23)

3. The _____ of His wrath (v. 24-32)

2. Through Organization

- a. Order and design call for a designer
- b. Teleological argument...aka - the watchmaker
- c. Acts 14:15-18 - Paul uses this argument to witness of the Living God

3. Through Man

- a. How can man (a moral, intelligent, living being) be explained apart from a moral, intelligent, living God?
- b. Anthropological argument - an inanimate, material, unconscious force could hardly produce man
- c. Evolution could not produce a soul, conscience, and religious instincts
- d. Acts 17:28-29

C. The Content of General Revelation (what God has communicated) ...this is not to say that everybody will understand all or any of these things

1. His glory (Ps. 19:1)
2. His power to work in creating the universe (v. 1)
3. His supremacy (Rom. 1:20)
4. His divine nature (v. 20)
5. His providential control of nature (Acts 14:17)
6. His goodness (Matt. 5:45)
7. His intelligence (Acts 17:29)
8. His living existence (v. 28)

D. The Value of General Revelation

1. To _____ God's grace
2. To give **weight** to the case for Theism
3. To justly **condemn** rejecters

VI. Special Revelation

A. Characteristics of Special Revelation:

Not general...does not necessarily come to all people (certain people @ certain times)

B. The Need for Special Revelation:

- a. Reflecting on their nature would never help and Adam & Eve know God's will for them to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26-28). God had to communicate this in words.

- b. The entrance of sin into the world heightened the need for personal communication. There is no way out.
- c. The history of religions reveals that when people do not receive the special revelation of God, they find no true release from guilt. (Saucy, p. 46) - *the heavens declare his glory, but it is the law of the Lord that converts the soul* (Ps. 19:1, 7)
- d. Thus Special Revelation, through which God communicates in a personal way, is thus vital for human life.

C. The Forms of Special Revelation

- a. Heb. 1:1-2 - suggests that special revelation has included a variety of methods, climaxing in the coming of the Son of God
 - 1. Dreams/visions
 - 2. The Angel of the Lord/angels
 - 3. The Prophets (2 Sam. 23:2)
 - 4. Jesus Christ (John 1) - the Incarnation (Col. 2:3)...not so much a revelation of God as He was the revelation (God in human flesh)

D. About Special Revelation

- 1. it is act and word - God used both (ie - only God's revelation can tell us that the crucifixion of Christ was "for our sins")
- 2. it is personal and verbal - words are an extension of one's thoughts and feelings bridging the gap between two parties
- 3. is intelligible only in the context of general revelation - it would be difficult to accept Him as Redeemer if we did not know Him also as Creator (Saucy, p. 55)

E. The Bible:

- 1. serves as the most _____ of all the avenues of special revelation
- 2. a testimony of Jesus Christ (John 5:39)

We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, and final and without errors in its content