

The Azimuth Institute

Directional Study Notes

Bible Doctrines

11/23/15

Theology – The Study of God

The Existence of God

The word *theology* comes from two Greek words, *theos*, meaning “God,” and *logos*, meaning “word” or “doctrine”.

So, it’s the study of God Doctrine or the Doctrine of God.

A. Assumptions of God’s existence

1. There is a God (Gen. 1:1)

B. Proofs of God’s existence

The answer to “Prove to me that there is a God” is “Prove to me there is not a God.”

1. Intuition

It is natural for man to believe that there is a God.

“All the evidence points to the conclusive fact that this universal faith in the existence of God is innate in man, and comes from rational intuition.” – William Evans

2. Tradition

Man has always believed that there is a God and an afterlife.

Man is a religious creature and has always been.

All people groups have a conception of God which has been passed down from generation to generation.

3. Reason

Just looking around us, it seems obvious that someone with a greater intelligence than ours created, ordered and organized the universe in which we live.

Effect demands a cause.

A Design demands a Designer.

A creation demands a Creator.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

Hebrews 3:4 *For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

How God Reveals Himself

Revelation is God disclosing things about Himself that man could not know otherwise.

Revelation is divided into two areas: general and special.

General revelation of God comes through creation while Special revelation is the act of God whereby He reveals Himself and His truth at specific times and specific places and cannot be learned on one's own.

A. General Revelation

It is the revelation of God through creation.

1. General revelation is seen by all men (Acts 14:15-17).
2. The Bible declares that general revelation alone renders man inexcusable.

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

3. General revelation is insufficient?

Some would argue that general revelation is sufficient while others would not.

Cf. Romans 2:12-16

Again, some would say that general revelation is sufficient for salvation.

Others will say that while general revelation is important, man must receive special revelation to be saved.

So, their line of thinking would be that if a man responds favorably to general revelation, it will of necessity lead to special revelation for salvation.

This can indeed sometimes cause a moral dilemma.

B. The Need for General Revelation

1. It saves the world from chaos and cruelty.

God has provided three channels of general revelation for mankind.

a. Nature (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-25)

Psalms 8:3-5 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; (4) What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? (5) For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

b. Conscience

cf. Rom 2:14-15

c. History (Deut. 28:9-10, 15, 37)

Proverbs 14:34 *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

It is through these channels that God has given man a natural sense of morality.

The world naturally knows wrong from right and that wrong needs to be punished for a society or nation to survive.