

LESSON 3: KNOWING GOD

How can everyone know there is a god?

- Psalm 14:1, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no god.'
- Romans 1:20, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." *See Genesis 1-2 for the creation account.*
- Romans 2:14-15 (Remember our discussion about the *conscience*?)

ANSWER: From our _____ knowledge of God (= _____ & _____)

Why isn't that knowledge enough?

- Psalm 96:5, "For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens."
- Ephesians 2:12, "At one time you were separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world."

ANSWER: Without more, you'll never know the _____ God or about your _____ from sin.

How does God give a fuller knowledge of Himself?

- Hebrews 1:1-2, "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."
- 2 Peter 1:21, "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

ANSWER: God revealed himself by _____ through _____ (the _____)

What claims did Jesus make for these Scriptures ("writings")?

- John 17:17, "Your word is truth."
- John 5:39, "You diligently study the Scriptures... These are the Scriptures that testify about me..."
- Luke 11:28, "Blessed...are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (lit., "guard it")

ANSWER: Jesus considered the Bible to be _____, to testify to _____, and to offer _____ to those who listen to it.

How does the Bible speak of God?

- Deuteronomy 6:4, "Here, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."
- Matthew 28:19, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- Note the Athanasian Creed: "We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty."

ANSWER: It speaks of only _____ God, yet _____ "persons". (The word coined to describe this is "_____", meaning "_____"). *NOTE: All three persons are expressly called God, described as God, and have the characteristics of God, such as:*

What three activities are ascribed to the three Persons of the “godhead”?

- John 3:16, “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...”
- Matthew 20:28, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- John 14:26, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

God the Father: _____

God the Son: _____

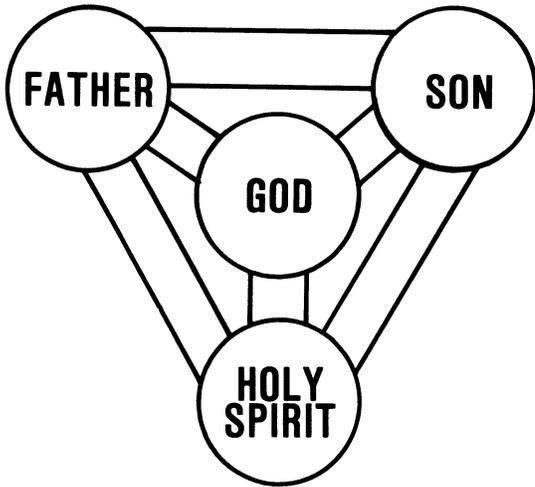
God the Holy Spirit: _____

What does it mean to believe in God?

- John 17:3, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”
- James 1:21, “Humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”
- Psalm 31:14, “But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’”

ANSWER: To believe in God means to _____ him, _____ his word, and _____ in him with all your heart.

The Christian Church has long confessed this God in the Apostles’ Creed



I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Do I think of God as a real, personal being...or do I think of him as just an intangible, distant idea?
- Do I accept the Biblical definition of God as being the “Three-In-One”...or are Jesus and the Holy Spirit less than fully God?
- Can I confess the Apostles’ Creed as a truthful exposition of my confidence? Do I trust this God who reveals himself in the Bible?

FOR NEXT TIME

Complete Lesson 3 Worksheet

NEXT LESSON DATE: _____