

Session 3

Topic

Doctrine Of God

Teacher

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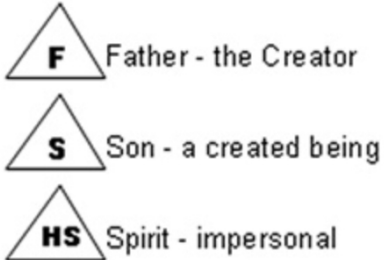
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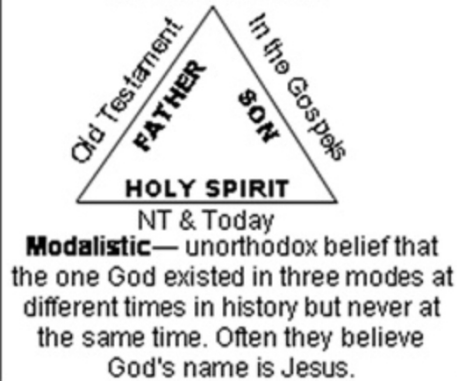


False Doctrinal Views of the Trinity

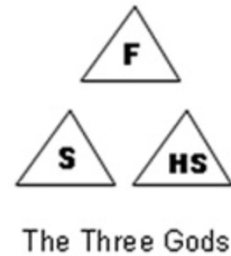
UNITARIANISM



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TRITHEISM





The Doctrine of God (Part 1)

Theology is the study of God and all that pertains to Him, and often when someone studies Theology, it is not limited to the Doctrine of God alone, but all that pertains to the spiritual realities in doctrine, for example, The Bible, The fall of Man, The Virgin Birth etc...

So, thinking of what is stated above, Theology is the study of God, and for us we are going to study in particular the Doctrine of God, which is the most basic essential doctrine for without the Lord God in the picture, there is nothing else for, "... by him all things consist.", as it says in **Colossians 1:17**.

If you look at a number of churches Statement of Faith, you will see that they almost always start with the Godhead and Trinity, and what we believe regarding the Scriptures.

What is a possible reason for this? As stated above, if there was or is no God, there would be no heavens and earth, and there would be no you and I. If there was or is no Bible, then we would not have the knowledge of God we need (That He is the All powerful, All Knowing, All Present God, Creator of Heaven and earth).

As it says in **Romans 1:20**. "For the things of his 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."

So, while we can go outside, look up at the night sky and understand there is a Creator who is the Supreme Being, we must be able to "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." as the Lord Jesus said in **John 5:39**.

We are very much dependent on the Scriptures to be able to "...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." **2 Peter 3:18**.

Therefore, with our Bibles in hand, let's study the Doctrine of God.

First: The existence of God.

Genesis 1:1 & Psalm 90:2 In **Genesis 1:1** we find the existence of God stated as a fact, ("In the beginning God..... created the heaven and the earth."),

In **Psalm 90:2**, we see the LORD did not just come into existence at that time, but is from eternity to eternity, that is, He always has been and always will be

Hebrews 11:6 shows us that for someone to come to God (really have a saving faith), they first must believe that He exists.

And as we can see from **Romans 1:20** above, the existence of God is clearly seen from the Creation.

Second: He is the One true Living God – Creator of Heaven and Earth

Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

We see the beginning of all things stated here as being from God. It was not from the "Big Bang", and it was not from multiple gods (polytheism – poly = many ; theism = belief in the existence of a God or gods .)

True Bible Believing Christianity's belief is a Monotheistic belief (that is, a belief in a single universal God). "Mono" here means one, and "theism" is as above, so, as stated, **we believe in a single universal God.**

In **1 Kings 8:27** Solomon said of the LORD – "...*behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;...*". In **Jeremiah 23:24** we see the LORD Himself making a similar statement.

Also **Colossians 1:16-17**, shows He is the Creator of all heaven and earth, whether they be visible or invisible, & by Him all things consist. *Truly*, He is the One and only universal God of heaven and earth.

There is also another belief apart from Monotheism and polytheism, and that is, henotheism. That is, there are many gods that exist, but the henotheist is the worship of one god without denying there are other gods, or making only one god to be worshipped, without denying the existence of other gods (Hinduism is an example of this).

Therefore, thinking of **Genesis 1:1**, In the beginning the One and only true God (singular) created the heaven and earth.

In **Exodus 3:13-14**, when Moses asked the Lord as to what to say when the Children of Israel (hereafter C O I) asked who had sent him, the response was that Moses was to say to the C O I: "The LORD hath sent me unto you."

Earlier in the verse the Lord had stated to Moses: "...I AM...":....." The LORD **did not** say, "We are what we are", because He is the One and only Almighty God.

God Almighty has always been, and always will be the everlasting self-existent One. In **Revelation 1:17-18**, when John the beloved disciple was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day (**Rev. 1:10**), he saw the Lord Jesus in His eternal state, and subsequently fell at His feet as dead (**Rev. 1:17**).

The Lord then laid his hand upon John and told him to "...*Fear not...*". The Lord then proceeds to make a statement about who He is, which fits perfectly with being the "I AM".

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore."

Note, here the Lord Jesus is showing that there is a Godhead made up of more than one person, by virtue of The Lord Jesus showing Himself as God. See also **Colossians 2:8-9**.

So, back in **Exodus 3:14** the LORD is showing He is the "... I AM...", that is, He is distinguishing Himself here from there being a plurality of gods to be worshipped.

Paul gives a clear explanation that there is One true God in **Acts 17:23-29**, and clearly distinguishes Him from all the many false gods the Athenians (& for that matter – others) worshipped (and do worship).

Third: The Godhead

In **Acts 17:29**, Paul uses the term "Godhead", as we saw in **Colossians 2:9**. It is also seen in **Romans 1:20**.

Considering the term "Godhead" in respect of it being made up of more than one part, we see in **John 10:30-31** when the Lord Jesus said; "*I and my Father are one.*", the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, because for them, what the Lord Jesus said was blasphemy (i.e contemptuous or irreverent words uttered impiously towards God).

For us, we can easily understand that the Godhead incorporates the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Ghost, which for the C O I is a heresy. The C O I did not, and mostly still don't believe that The Lord has more than one part. We will study the Trinity in a later session.

But we can see through the Old Testament the other parts of the Godhead working together, and showing that there is more than one part to the Godhead.

The term "Godhead" is only found in the New Testament these three times, and is not shown in the Old Testament at all, **and either means** Divine nature (**Acts 17:29**), or Divinity (**Romans 1:20 & Colossians 2:9**), that is, Deity, the one Supreme Being.

Let us think here for a minute about the lack of reference to the Godhead in the Old Testament. Why is this the case? What do the C O I believe about who the Lord God is?

Deuteronomy 6:4 reads, *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is _____ LORD:"* Subsequently, they simply believe that He is the "I AM". They do not believe in a Godhead in the sense of there being more than one part to God, **nor** in the sense of the Lord God being a Divinity simply above all other gods. As it reads in **Isaiah 45:5**, *"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is _____ God beside me:...."* Look also at **Verses 21-23**.

This would match with **Acts 19:26**, where Luke quotes Demetrius the silversmith, who in turn was quoting Paul who said in relation to "gods" made with hands, that they be _____ gods.

Consider **Exodus 20:1-5**. Here we see the greatest of the Commandments... *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."* (Verse 3).

Then in verses 4 and 5, The LORD, in respect of other "gods", commands that there be no graven images made, n _____ were they to bow down to them, n _____ serve them. When you think of Dagon the "god" of the Philistines, it was an image. When you think of Paul walking around Athens seeing the myriad of idols to all the "gods" in Acts 17, and all through the Bible, the false gods were worshipped by means of an idol.

When Paul and Barnabas healed the lame man in Lystra (**Acts 14:8-9**), the people there thought that, *"...The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men."* (**Acts 14:11**), thinking that Paul was Mercurius (Latin for Mercury), and thinking Barnabas was Jupiter. That is, the only thing people worshipped in respect of other "gods" were idols.

Again, consider Paul preaching to the Athenians in **Acts 17:23-26**. First, in **verse 23**, he found an altar, "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD". That would seem to indicate there was no idol, just an altar to the unknown God, as an appeasement in case they missed a "god" somewhere in all their false worship.

That fits... you can't make an image of the One true God of heaven and earth, as what would it look like anyway?

The Athenians were ignorant of the one true Lord God of heaven and earth, so Paul declared:

Verse 24 – *"God that _____ the world and _____ things therein,..."*

*"...seeing that he is Lord of _____ **and** _____ ,..."*

"...dwelleth not in _____ m _____ with hands;"

Verse 25 – *"Neither is worshipped with _____ ,"*

Thinking more of why Paul said that third statement from verse 24, and the statement from verse 25, the city Paul was in at the time was "Athens" whose name came from the Greek goddess Athena, and Athens was filled with temples & idols for the pagan gods.

Therefore, Paul makes a clear distinction here. He shows the Lord God as the Almighty – or the All Powerful i.e Omnipotent God, and shows the “gods” of the Athenians (and any other “gods” for that matter) as of none effect, that is, false gods.

Next, Consider Satan and his demonic forces in respect of the existence of God, and The Lord being the One True Living God.

They know & acknowledge the existence of God, that He is the One true Living God, and they know their eternity has already been determined by God.

First, look at **Matthew 4:3 & 6**. The devil knew full well who it was he was in the company of. Look at the Lord Jesus’ response in verse 7: “...*Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God*”. The devil had no response to that, there was no debate.

Finally, as a last attempt to tempt the Son of God and make Him fall, he takes Him up into an exceeding high mountain (Verse 8), and attempts to get the Lord Jesus to fall down and worship him (satan).

In Verse 10, we see the Lord Jesus rebuke satan again (& finally) by saying, “...***Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.***”

Why are we thinking of that? Here is the leader of the demonic forces without answer to the Lord Jesus stating that He (The Lord Jesus) is the Lord God, and he (satan) will ultimately worship Him. **Isaiah 45:21-23 & Philippians 2:9-11.**

In the Bible there are only two spiritual forces in this world the Lord God is of course the force of Holiness and righteousness. But the other force is the powers of darkness headed by satan. So, who do you think gets the worship when people worship idols? _____

To close this first lesson, let us see what the powers of darkness clearly know is the case. Turn to **James 2:19**. The devils believe there is _____ God. But not only that, let us see why they tremble at the true God of heaven and earth. Turn to **Matthew 8:28-29**. They know what will be at the end. They are defeated.

→ The Lord God IS, and is from everlasting to everlasting....

→ The Lord God is the one true living God, Creator of heaven and earth

→ He is the Godhead – the One true Deity we are to worship.