

I. Introduction and review.

- A. The gods men make are too much like us. **Isa. 57:13 40:18ff 45:20** *They carry about their wooden idol and pray to a god who cannot save.*
- B. The one true God is different from all other so called gods. **I Ki. 8:23** *O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath.*
- C. *God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.* (Westminster Shorter Catechism #4)

II. With reference to time, God is eternal. I Tim. 1:17 Ps. 90:1-2 45:6 Isa. 40:28 Eph. 3:21 John 5:21,26 Ex.3:14 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God... Lord You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

- A. He has no beginning or end. **Gen. 1:1 21:33 Jo. 1:1 Rev. 1:8 Ps. 102:27b Ecc. 3:11** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... In the beginning was the Word... "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God, "Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." ... Your years will never come to an end....*
- B. God alone is eternal! **Col. 1:16-17 Ro. 1:20 Deut. 33:27 Isa. 57:15 43:13** *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*
- C. God is involved in time, but is not limited by time. **Ps. 90:4 II Pe. 3:8 Ga. 4:4f** *A thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by...*
- D. We by contrast are temporal. **Ps. 90:3,5-6,10** *You turn man back into dust... You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew; Toward evening it fades and withers away... The days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow. For soon it is gone and we fly away.*
- E. Are we in any sense eternal? **Mt. 25:46 John 10:28 3:16 Rev. 22:5** *These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.... I give eternal life to them... They will reign forever...*
- F. Application.
 - 1. Live in light of the shortness of this life. **Ps. 90:12,17** *So teach us to number our days, That we may present to you a heart of wisdom... Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands...*
 - 2. Live in expectation of eternal life in God's presence. **Rom. 8:18 II Co. 5:16-18** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us... Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory, far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

III. With reference to space, God is omnipresent (all present). Deut. 4:39 Jer. 23:23-24 Acts 17:27-28 Isa. 66:1 *The LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other... “Am I a God who is near”, declares the LORD, “And not a God far off”? Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see Him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the LORD.*

- A. God transcends all spatial limitations and is fully present in every point in space. I Ki. 8:27 Isa. 66:1 Eph. 1:23 *Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you.*
1. He is immense.
 2. God is everywhere, but not everything is God (pantheism).
- B. He particularly manifests His presence in particular places. Gen. 18 Mt. 18:20 28:20 Ex. 24:17 Jo. 1:14 I Ki. 8:29 Acts 7:48ff Eph. 2:21-22 Col. 2:9 Ro. 8:11 Rev. 21:3 *The glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top... In Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form... The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...You are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit... Behold the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them.*
- C. Application: God’s omnipresence is personal. Ps. 139:7-12 *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.*
1. God never leaves His people! Isa. 43:1-5 Heb. 13:5-6 Mt. 28:20 Ps. 34:18 32:7 *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk thorough the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. For I am the LORD your God... Do not fear...*
 2. God’s presence intensifies worship. John 4:24
 3. God’s omnipresence is also a deterrent to sin! Prov. 15:3 *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.*
 4. Those who fight God have no place to hide. Rev. 6:15-16

IV. God is omniscient (all knowing). Heb. 4:13 Ps. 33:13-15 I Sam. 2:3 Isa. 40:27-28 *There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do... Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.*

- A. What does it mean to say God is omniscient? Ps. 147:5 Da. 2:22 Ezek. 11:5 I Jo. 3:20 *His understanding is infinite... God is greater than our heart and knows all things.*
1. He has complete knowledge of everything past, present and future. Ps. 33:13-15 *The LORD looks from heaven; He sees the sons of men; From His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.*
 2. He is fully aware of even seemingly insignificant things. Luke 12:6-7 *Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*
 3. He even knows what would have happened under certain conditions. Mt. 11:21,23 II Ki. 13:19 *If the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in dust and ashes.*

- B. Some theologians deny God's omniscience: "openness of God theology".**
1. They claim God's knowledge is limited because He cannot know the future actions of creatures to whom He has given free will.
 2. They claim God changes His mind in response to the previously unknowable free acts of men. *Jonah 3:4 Isa. 38:1 I Sam. 15:11,29 Gen. 6:5-6*
 3. They believe God can be mistaken about future events.
 4. What motivates the Open Theists?
- C. Why is this issue important?**
1. This is a more serious error than Arminianism which teaches that while God foresees what will come to pass, He has not foreordained all that comes to pass.
 2. This heresy undermines the doctrine of God.
 3. They make God just like us, sharing our human limitations.
 4. It would be terrifying to live in a world controlled by man's will and not God's.
- D. Open theism refuted.**
1. There are certain things which God, by His very nature cannot do. *Titus 1:2 II Tim. 2:13 God cannot lie... He cannot deny Himself.*
 - a. God cannot cease to be Himself: omnipotent, omnipresent and eternal.
 - b. He cannot create a being which would diminish His knowledge and power.
 2. God precisely knows future events, including human choices, with certainty. *Eph 1:4-6 Jo. 13:19,21,26 6:64,70 21:31ff Acts 2:23 Isa. 44:28 Da. 2:21ff II Ti. 1:9 Gal. 3:8 Gen. 15:13-14 I Sam. 23:11-13 Acts 15:18 He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world... He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will... He makes things known from long ago.*
 3. God knows what we will do (or say) before we do it. *Ps. 139:4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold O LORD, You know it all.*
 4. God's will, not ours, is ultimate. *Pr. 16:9 21:1 Ps. 33:10-11 Ge. 50:20 The mind of a man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps...The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes... The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever.*
 5. God's knowledge of the future distinguishes Him from false gods. *Is. 41:21ff 44:6ff Let them come forth and declare to us what is going to take place...Declare the things that are going to come afterward that we may know that you are gods... Who is like Me?...Let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place... Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it. You are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me?... 45:21 Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD?*
 6. He knows what will happen because He has determined it and His purpose cannot be thwarted (omnipotence). *Eph. 1:11 Isa. 46:9-10 He works all things after the counsel of His will...I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure;' calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.*
- E. God is now only knowledgeable, He is wise. Rom. 11:33-36 16:25,27 Dan. 2:20 I Cor. 1:18ff Eph. 3:6,9,10 Oh the depths of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the LORD, or who became His counselor?**

1. His knowledge is not merely exhaustive. It is excellent and beautiful. Prov. 1-9
2. His wisdom is displayed in all He does: creation, redemption and providence. Eph. 1:3ff Col. 1:13-20 Prov. 8 Ro. 3:21-26 4:5
3. Christ Himself is the wisdom of God. Col. 2:2-3 Rev. 5:12 *In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
4. His plan is the best possible plan, achieving the best possible ends by the best possible means. Jer. 29:11 *For know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and hope.*
5. The goal of His wise plan is His own glory.
6. God's ways are not like our ways. Isa. 55:6-9

F. Application.

1. God knows you! Ps. 139:1-6 103:14 Luke 16:15 Isa. 29:15 Gen. 16:13
Oh LORD, You have searched me and know me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways...
2. God knows what is transpiring in your life.
 - a. He knows what He is doing even in the midst of your trials. Rom. 8:28
 - b. He knows what you can handle. I Cor. 10:13 II Co. 12:7-9
3. God's interpretation of reality is true. Prov. 3:5-6 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*
4. You will never be omniscient. Deut. 29:29 *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever.*
5. Humble yourself under the wisdom of God. Ro. 11:34b Job 42:1ff Ps. 139:23-24
6. Seek the wisdom of God. Prov. 2:2 James 1:5 Prov. 1:7
7. Praise God for His perfect and wise plan. Rom. 8:28 11:33-36
8. God's perfect knowledge will be used to judge humanity. Num. 32:23 Rev. 20:12 Mt. 12:36 *Be sure your sin will find you out... I saw the dead, the great and small standing before the throne, and books were opened... And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds... Every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.*

V. God is omnipotent (all powerful). Eph. 1:11 Isa. 48:8-11 45:9 55:11 Deut. 10:17 Ps. 24:8 115:3 Dan. 4:35 II Chron. 20:6 Rom. 9:14-21 Prov. 21:1 Gen. 1:3ff 18:14 Luke 1:37 18:27 Mark 10:27 II Co. 4:6 Jer. 32:27 (next time)

VI. Concluding applications.

Attributes of God Quiz: God's Infinity (T/F: please explain your answers)

1. We can become eternal just like God.
2. Angelic beings have always existed with God.
3. Matter is not eternal.
4. Human time travel is impossible.
5. God's omnipresence simply means that He fills the created universe.
6. Because God is present everywhere, the universe itself is Divine.
7. God's presence is diffused throughout the universe.
8. God's omnipresence has many wonderful practical applications.
9. God's omniscience and omnipresence are bad news for the wicked.
10. Because God created us with free will, He learns when we make choices.
11. The doctrine of God's perfect knowledge of the future is a secondary issue on which Christians ought to be able to disagree without hindering fellowship.
12. If God is not omniscient then He is not eternal, omnipotent, and immutable either.
13. When we are in heaven we will fully share God's omniscience.