



SURVEY OF THEOLOGY PROPER

What is God Like?

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Lecture Four: General and Special Revelation

INTRODUCTION:

REVELATION – because man is finite and God is infinite, if man is to know God it must come about by God’s revelation of Himself to man.

GENERAL REVELATION – provides evidences of the existence of God at all times and to all mankind.

1. It gives light to all and makes all accountable to God.
2. It brings condemnation when rejected.

SPECIAL REVELATION – is not provided for all of mankind and is not available at all times.

It is...

1. exclusive
2. partial.
3. accurate.
4. purposeful.
5. progressive.

GENERAL & SPECIAL REVELATION

General revelation includes all that God has revealed in the world around us, including man, while special revelation includes various means He used to communicate His message in what was codified in the Bible.

GENERAL REVELATION – reveals God’s glory.

SPECIAL REVELATION – reveals His plan for redemption.

1A. General Revelation – 3 ways that God has revealed Himself in His creation

1B. In Nature

1C. Psalm 19:1-6

- Reveals God exists
- Reveals God’s Glory

2C. Romans 1:18-21

- Reveals God is omnipotent
- Reveals God will judge

2B. In Providence

- 1C. Matthew 5:45
 - Reveals God is benevolent to all people
- 2C. Acts 14:15-17
 - Reveals God provides food for all people
- 3C. Daniel 2:21
 - Reveals God raises up and removes rulers
- 3B. In Conscience
 - 1C. Romans 2:14-15
 - Reveals God has placed his law within the hearts of all people
- 2A. Special Revelation – 2 ways God has specially revealed Himself
 - 1B. In Christ
 - 1C. John 1:18
 - Reveals what the Father is like
 - 2C. John 5:36-37
 - Reveals the Father’s compassion
 - 3C. John 6:63; 14:10
 - Reveals that the Father gives life to those who believe in the Son
 - 2B. In Scripture
 - 1C. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17
 - Reveals all the doctrine, rebuke, correction, and guidance that the Christian needs for good living
 - 2C. 2 Peter 1:21
 - Reveals all that God has chosen to disclose through human authors directed by the Holy Spirit

What is God like?

- What is God like? What kind of God is He? How may we expect Him to act toward us and toward all created things?To our questions God has provide answers; not all the answers, certainly enough to satisfy our intellects and ravish our hearts. These answers He provided in nature, in the Scriptures, and in the person of His Son. – Tozer Knowledge of the Holy, p. 13
- Though God in this threefold revelation has provided answers to our questions concerning Him, the answers by no means lie on the surface. They must be sought by prayer, by long mediation on the written Word, and by earnest and well-disciplined labor. However brightly the light may shine, it can be seen only by those who are spiritually prepared to receive it. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall seek God.” P. 14