



SURVEY OF THEOLOGY PROPER

What is God Like?

Grace Institute - Pastor Jim C. Davis

Lecture Three: The Knowable God

Knowledge about God should deepen our relationship with Him which in turn should increase our desire to know more about Him. - Charles Ryrie, p 26

Introduction:

How we can know God?

1. God Himself is the source of our knowledge of Him.
2. Knowledge about God is both factual & personal
Factual alone without personal is limiting. Personal without facts about a person is shallow.
3. Our knowledge is limited (or in part) but real and adequate for a personal relationship with God.

The Knowable God

1A. Means of Knowing God

1B. God's initiated self-revelation to man

2B. God gave language

3B. God gave man intelligence/reason – Genesis 1:27

And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27

4B. God gave the Holy Spirit

God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given to us. Romans 5:5

2A. Sources of Knowing God

1B. Limited & Fallible--

1C. Nature is limited – Romans 1:20-21

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Romans 1:20-21

2C. Reason is darkened by sin – I Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 1 Corinthians 2:14

3C. Human experience is fallible – Romans 3:10-12

There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, there is not even one. Rom. 3:10-12

4C. Human tradition can mislead -Mark7:9&13

He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. ... 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that." Mark 7:9, 13

5C. Culture is constantly in rebellion -Genesis 11:4

They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." Gen 11:4

Therefore the only infallible canon for determining truth is the written word of God -
God is our source

2B. Sources: limited & infallible:

1C. God's self-revelation to man -- Matthew 11:25-27; Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3

"At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.'" Matthew 11:25-27

Thus says the Lord, Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things, declares the Lord. Jeremiah 9:23-24

And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent. John 17:3



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2C. God's Word – 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:21

3C. Incarnation - purpose to reveal God --John 1:18; 14:7

No man has seen God at any time; the Only Begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. John 1:18

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him. John 14:7

4C. Holy Spirit - opens the Scriptures to believers—John 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 2:10; Rom., 8:16; I John 2:27

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. John 16:13

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. Romans 8:16

And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for Anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. 1 John 2:27

3A. Definition of God

God is Spirit- He is a living and active divine person who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.