

Week 6: The Knowledge and Revelation of God

*Grudem_{ST} 9-10; Grudem_{BD} **, Ryrie 4-5*

How do we know that God exists? (Grudem, 141-144)

- A. Humanity's Inner Sense of God
 - a. God has set eternity on the hearts of man (Eccl. 3:11)
 - b. Even the unbelievers "know God", but do not honor Him (Rom 1:21)
 - c. Those who willfully deny this inner sense and claim there is no God are called fools (Ps. 14:1; 53:1).
 - i. Sin & pride can cause a person to deny the existence of God (Ps. 10:3-4; Rom. 1:18)
- B. The Revelations of God
 - a. The Special Revelation: the Bible
 - i. God's existence assumed from the first verse (Gen. 1:1)
 - b. The General Revelation: Nature
 - i. Psalm 19:1-6
 - 1. The heavens declare the glory of God
 - 2. The "silent" voice of nature goes throughout the earth
 - 3. The coverage is everywhere and to everybody
 - ii. Romans 1:18-32
 - 1. What can be known about God is plain because God has shown it
 - 2. His invisible attributes – eternal power & divine nature are clearly perceived
 - 3. This revelation is true since the creation of the world – unaffected by our sin
 - 4. But it is our sin which causes us to willfully misinterpret the witness of creation
 - 5. There is no excuse for misinterpreting the witness of creation
 - iii. Acts 14:15-17
 - 1. Rains from heaven and fruitful seasons are witness to God's existence
 - 2. God's witness in nature is faithful, even if we are not
- C. Other "Proofs"
 - a. Cosmological Argument: *everything in the universe has a cause*
 - b. Teleological Argument: *the universe has been designed with a purpose*
 - c. Ontological Argument: *the idea of a Perfect Being, who, as such, must exist*
 - d. Moral Argument: *man has a sense of right and wrong, and for justice to be done*

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Ps. 14:1)

Can we really know God? (Grudem, 149-152)

- A. We can never fully understand God (Ps. 139:6; 145:3; 147:5; Rom 11:33; 1Cor 2:10-11)
 - a. Because God is infinite, He is *incomprehensible* – unable to be *fully* understood
 - b. We cannot even *fully* understand any single thing about God, they are all beyond us
 - c. Thus, we can always learn more about God
- B. Yet we can know God truly
 - a. We can know Him, not just facts about Him (Jer. 9:23-24; John 17:3; Heb. 8:11; 1John 5:20)

"No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him" (Matt. 11:27)

"But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth" (Jer. 9:24)

Questions:

1. Do most people today believe in the existence of God? If so, why have they not worshipped Him rightly?
2. Why do some people deny the existence of God? What is the best way to approach such a person?
3. Why do you think God decided to reveal Himself to us?
4. Do you learn more about Him from nature or Scripture?
5. Do you think it is possible for one to become saved through the general revelation alone?
6. Would you call your present relationship to God a personal relationship? What would make it better?