

# LESSON #1 HOPE GROWS AS WE MEET GOD

## Introduction

Ephesians 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance ...

## I. IS THERE A GOD?

Some helpful passages:

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

1. When you look at a house, what do you know? \_\_\_\_\_ . So, logically, we look at the world and say, "Someone must have 'built' all this, too." Who did that?

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

2. As we look at nature, we learn some things about God. We see that He's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . (Can we give examples of each?)

Romans 2:14-15 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, ... they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

3. Even people who have never seen a Bible still have some understanding of right and wrong, of the "requirements of the law." That's true because they're written where?
4. Our conscience looks at God's requirements (the law) and compares it to our actions/attitudes. Unfortunately, what does our conscience often have to say to us?

***What we know about God from nature and our conscience is called \_\_\_\_\_ .***

*"You do not see God, nevertheless you know God from His works." Cicero*

*"Being by nature invisible to all mankind, He is seen by His very works." Aristotle*

All people know by nature that there is a god. Human logic tells us so (Hebrews 3), as does human experience (Romans 1), and human emotions (Romans 2). It's no wonder God says: *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"* (Ps. 14:1)

## II. THE WEAKNESS OF OUR NATURAL KNOWLEDGE

### Read Acts 17:16-23

1. The people of Athens showed their natural knowledge of God. How so? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. To which god had the Athenians even set up an altar? (v23) \_\_\_\_\_
3. This shows why the natural knowledge of God isn't enough: Our natural knowledge doesn't tell us  
\_\_\_\_\_ nor does it tell us about \_\_\_\_\_
4. Acts 17:27 tells us why God gave us the natural knowledge of God. Why did He? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### III. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO ME

Some helpful passages:

Isaiah 45:22 Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

1. How many gods are there? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ...

2. The one true God reveals Himself as three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore the true God is sometimes called \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

3. God has revealed Himself most clearly in \_\_\_\_\_

John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ...

4. We learn about Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

#### Read Revelation 1:12-18

1. When John turns, he sees Jesus in His glory. Describe that scene. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does John do? (v17a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does John react as he did? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. John's terrified. How does Jesus deal with him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Some helpful passages:

1 Peter 1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

1. What does a holy God demand from us? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

2. How have we (and all people) measured up? \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,

3. Because of our sin, what have we fairly earned from God? \_\_\_\_\_

### More helpful passages:

Exodus 34:6 And he (God) passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

1. What picture of God do we see in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:8 ... God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

2. A holy God couldn't overlook our sins, but a forgiving God didn't want to punish us. How did God solve the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

### Read 1Kings 19:11-13

1. In what was God not present? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did God reveal Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does this teach you about how God wants to deal with you and me? \_\_\_\_\_

### Summary:

- All people know that there is a god, but who the true God is has to be revealed to me.
- The only true God is the Triune God who is revealed in the Bible.
- Because God hates sin every person deserves to go to hell. But God paid for all sin when Jesus died.
- God won't force me to believe in Him. Rather, He wants to win my heart through what He's done.

***Our God above - His heart is love. Hope grows!***

## FOR STUDY AT HOME DURING THE WEEK

1. Complete the homework sections below.
2. To build up your knowledge of God's Word, memorize these passages:  
1 John 4:9     *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*  
Psalm 19:1     *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
3. Memorize the New Testament books of the Bible, Matthew through Colossians. You'll find them listed in the front of your Bible.
4. Suggested daily reading: Mark 1-7

### Read Genesis chapters 1-3 and answer the following questions:

1. In lesson #1 we learned that God is Triune -- three persons, but one God. In 1:2 and 1:26 we see indications of the fact that God is triune. How do you see it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When God had finished creating the world, what did God declare about it? (1:31) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. We can learn much about what God is like from the account of creation. What are some things which impressed you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In chapter 2, God gives us the details of how He created man and woman. How did He create each? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The one command which God gave Adam and Eve is recorded in 2:15-17. If Adam and Eve ate of that special tree, what did God say would happen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What tragic event is recorded in the early verses of chapter three? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Read Matthew 3:13-17 and answer the following questions:

1. What happens to Jesus in this account? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did each of the three persons of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) reveal themselves? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Multiple Choice. Place an X before the answer which is most correct.**

1. All people, by nature, know that there is a God. All people know that from
  - a. \_\_\_\_ the Bible and other “holy books” of all great religions.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ the created universe (i.e. nature) and the human conscience.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ science books and philosophy.
2. What we know about God by nature is called
  - a. \_\_\_\_ the natural knowledge of God.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ the revealed knowledge of God.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ the hidden knowledge of God.
3. The natural knowledge of God isn’t enough because
  - a. \_\_\_\_ not everyone has a conscience.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ some people can’t see how marvelous nature is.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ it doesn’t tell us who the true God is, nor does it tell us about the Savior from sin.
4. We learn who the true God is from
  - a. \_\_\_\_ great philosophers.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ praying.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ the Bible.
5. The fact that God is triune means
  - a. \_\_\_\_ there are three Gods, all powerful and equal.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ there is one God who reveals Himself as three distinct persons.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ there is one God, but different religions call him by different names.

**Matching: Look up the passages listed below and write the number of the passage onto the proper blank before the truth that passage teaches us about God.**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Exodus 34:6 (p88)        | _____ God is holy.  |
| 2. Leviticus 19:2 (p116)    | _____ God is unchangeable.                                      |
| 3. Psalm 90:1,2 (p588)      | _____ God is gracious and merciful.                             |
| 4. Jeremiah 23:23,24 (p774) | _____ God is omnipresent (present everywhere at the same time). |
| 5. Malachi 3:6 (p950)       | _____ God is love.  |
| 6. Matthew 19:26 (p976)     | _____ God is eternal (from everlasting to everlasting).         |
| 7. John 21:17 (p1076)       | _____ God is omnipotent (all-powerful or almighty).             |
| 8. 1John 4:8 (p1209)        | _____ God is omniscient (knowing all things).                   |

**Bible Books:** Write, from memory if possible, the New Testament books Matthew - Colossians.

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**True-False. (Put an X before each true statement.)**

1. ( ) What we learn about God from nature and conscience is called the natural knowledge of God.
2. ( ) From nature I know that God is powerful and wise.
3. ( ) My conscience tells me that I have always obeyed God.
4. ( ) Jesus Christ -- God's Son -- is just as powerful as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
5. ( ) God doesn't care if I sin or not.
6. ( ) Because of my sin, I deserve to go to hell.
7. ( ) God wants to force me to become a Christian.
8. ( ) When Jesus died, He paid for my sins.
9. ( ) The natural knowledge of God is enough to get us to heaven.

**Bible Passages: Write them from memory, if possible.**

Psalm 19:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_