

The Attributes of God
Lesson 1 – Existence / Eternality

I. Introduction

A. Importance

1. An unknown God can not be trusted, worshipped or served.
2. The true knowledge of God must come from a clear mental apprehension of His nature, attributes, and perfections as revealed in the Scripture.

B. Admonitions to gaining a knowledge of God

1. Job 22:21
2. Jeremiah 9:23-24
3. John 17:3
4. A spiritual and saving knowledge of God is one's greatest need.

C. Acquiring a knowledge of God

1. Jeremiah 31:33
2. Matt. 11:27
3. Luke 10:22
4. 2 Cor. 4:6

D. Applications of the knowledge of God

1. Hosea 6:3
2. Dan 11:32
3. John 7:17
4. Exodus 15:11
 - a. awe inspiring
 - b. worship provoking grandeur

II. Attribute #1: Existence (eternity) - the Bible assumes the existence of God. It is the foundation of all wisdom and knowledge (Prov.1:7; 9:10). Only fools deny the existence of God (Psalm 14:1; 92:6).

A. Gen. 1:1

1. God existed, in the unity of His nature (the Trinity), alone.
2. There was no heaven to reveal His glory
3. There was no earth to engage His attention
4. There were no angels to sing His praise
5. There was no universe to be upheld by the word of His power.
6. He was self-contained, self-sufficient, self-satisfied, in need of nothing. He is glorious enough in Himself.
7. The creating of the above added nothing to God essentially because He does not change (Mal.3:6); His glory can neither be augmented nor diminished.
8. He was under no obligation or necessity to create; that He

chose to do so was purely a sovereign act on His part caused by nothing outside of Himself.

9. He did so for His own pleasure - Eph.1 :1110

10. He grants saving faith for His own pleasure - Eph.1 :5

B. Psalm 90:2

1. Truths contained

a. The world had a beginning — “brought forth”

b. The world owes its being to the creative power of God — “You”

c. God was in being before the world — the cause must come before the effect.

d. God was from eternity — “from everlasting”

e. God shall endure to eternity — “to everlasting”

2. Doctrines revealed

a. God is without beginning — Gen. 1:1

1). Time began with the foundation of the world, but God, being before time, could have no beginning in time.

2). To be in time is to have a beginning; to be before all time is never to have a beginning, but always to be.

3). He has life within Himself — John 5:26

4). 2 Tim 1:8-10 — Grace given before the beginning of time.

b. God is without end — Psalm 9:7; James 1:17

1). He shall live forever — Rev. 4:9-10

2). He shall endure forever — Psalm 102:27

3). He alone is immortal — as He received His life from none, so He can not be deprived of it by any.

4). As none gave Him His life, so none can deprive Him of His life or the least portion of it.

c. God is without succession — Psalm 102:27

1). The being of creation is successive; the being of God is permanent, and remains entire with all His perfections unchanged in an infinite duration.

2). He receives nothing as an addition to what He was before; He loses nothing of what He was before.

3). His years do not come and go like ours — Heb. 1:12

4). Man is not the same that he was, and will not be the same that he is; but God is the same without any succession of parts and of time.

- 5). God is no more than He was, and He shall be no more hereafter than He is.
 - 6) Thus, there is no succession in His knowledge, His decrees or His commands and instructions.
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- d. God is eternal — 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Tim. 6:15-16
 - 1) All the perfections of God are eternal — power, mercy, justice, wisdom, knowledge, glory, etc.
 - 2) God Himself could not be eternal if any of His attributes, which are essential to Him, were not eternal also.
 - 3) God gains nothing from us — Job 35:7-8; Luke 17:10
 - 4) Christ added nothing to God in His essential being and glory; Christ manifested His glory to us, but Christ added nothing to God — Psalm 16:2-3
 - 5) His eternity is evident by the names He gives Himself — Exodus 3:14
 - a). “I am that I am” - present tense shows that His essence knows neither past nor future.
 - b) If it were “I was”, it would intimate that He was not now what He once was.
 - c) If it were “I will be”, it would intimate He was not yet what He will be.
 - e. God has life in Himself — John 5:26; John 1:4 - ~
 - 1) He has life by His essence not by participation.
 - 2) He is a sun to give light and life to all creatures, but receives neither light nor life from anything.

- C If God were not eternal
- 1. He would not be immutable (non-changeable)-Job 37:23; Mal. 3:6
 - a. Whatever begins is changed by passing from not being to being.
 - b. It would begin to be what it was not; and if it ended, it would cease to be what it was.
 - 2. He would not be a perfect being — Job 11:7; Psalm 41:13

- a. A finite duration is inconsistent with infinite perfection.
 - b. If God had a beginning, He would not be infinite; if not infinite, He could not possess the highest perfection.
 - c. If He had a beginning, He would be limited by that which gave Him beginning; that which gave Him being would be God, and not Himself.
 - d. Since God is the most sovereign perfection, He is certainly eternal; being infinite, nothing can be added to Him, nothing detracted from Him.
3. Christ would not be God — Col.1:16-17; Heb. 7:3
- a.. Eternity is the nature of God but it is ascribed to Christ
 - b. If all things were Christ's creatures, then He is no creature.
 - c. He came from the Father and returns to the Father
John 16:28; John 17:5