

**King's Online Bible School**

**Doctrine 101: Learning about God** — Spotlight Studies

(adapted from Wayne Grudem's *Bible Doctrines* & R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths*)

**Unknowable but Knowable** (Lesson 1)

**1. Does everyone know that there is a God?** "Man's inner sense of God's existence"

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them (Rom 1:18-19).

Every human being has an inner sense that there is a God. Everyone is accountable, whatever their background, however they may have been raised, and whatever they have been told. "They are without excuse." No one can complain that there is insufficient evidence and that they had no way of knowing that God exists.

Every human being who has ever lived has known there is a God. But this is knowledge that some willfully reject because they are unwilling to submit to Him. The Bible describes those who say that God does not exist as fools (Ps 14:1).

This inner awareness gets stronger and clearer as we become Christians, but it is there in every person in a way that has to be purposely ignored or rejected by those who deny His existence.

Read Romans 1:18-25.

**2. How nature reveals God**

"The Evidence of God in Nature" (Psalm 19:1-2)

The things that have been made reveal God's power, His attributes and His Deity.

Wherever we look in nature, we see the evidence of creation by a Person Who has amazing wisdom and Who possesses the power to create and sustain matter and life in complex and intricate systems He has designed.

But man himself, made in the image of God, is the most powerful witness to God's existence. Every time we contemplate "man," if we are thinking correctly, we should see that such an intricate, skilful, communicative, living creature must have been created by an infinite, all-wise Creator.

Not everyone sees this evidence. It is there, but Paul explains that not everyone sees it because they suppress this knowledge. In their minds they have excluded this way of looking at things because they want to live apart from God.

Read Romans 1:20.

What attributes of God do you see in creation?  
How does creation reveal God's divine nature to you?

### **3. Meeting God**

“The Evidence of God in Scripture” (Gen 1:1)

The Bible does not begin with a list of proofs that God exists. It simply introduces Him as the One Who always has been. “In the beginning God . . .” (Gen 1:1). For everything and everyone else it was the beginning. For God it was not. He is the necessary Personal Cause for all other existence: All of life that we know is constant proof that He is. The Bible teaches us to be aware of the evidence of His presence and His rule throughout the created universe.

Evidence of God’s existence is found throughout Scripture. The Bible is a record of God’s revelation of Himself in creation and in man’s history. It reports what He does and preserves the words He has spoken.

The Bible explains reality in a satisfying and convincing way. It confirms what we sense and know from creation, adding to our certainty that in the Scriptures we have access to all the truth He has revealed about Himself.

### **4. The Bible tells me so.**

Being alive in God’s creation makes us know that there is a God. Our attraction to good experiences (like kindness and love and things that please us) make us know good and desire it. We sense that God is good.

At the same time we see that not everything is good around us or inside us. What is the answer to evil? How can we make our lives right? All the good we see in creation cannot tell us and we cannot find an answer in ourselves.

Only God’s words to us can reveal His will to help us and what He has done to save us from evil. Only the Good News that there is salvation in His Son Jesus can give us that hope and assurance.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

## 5. Life to our souls

God always wants us to be learning of Him because He loves us and wants our good. What He has revealed in His word imparts life to our souls.

"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

There is no other way to live safely because there is no other way to know what is right with certainty.

"Jesus was saying to those ... who believed in Him, 'If you continue in My Word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free'" (John 8:31-32).

"All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies" (Ps 25:10).

## 6. What we can't know

"The Incomprehensibility of God"

God is "incomprehensible." He is not able to be *fully* understood.

God (being infinite) cannot be fully known by man (being finite).

Only He, in His infinite capacity to understand, can understand and know Himself completely.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. His greatness is unsearchable (Ps 145:3).

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!" (Rom 11:33)

## 7. Valuing treasure

We can only know that which God has chosen to reveal. This is the preciousness of the Bible: it is the record of His disclosures and His revelation to man.

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

"How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,  
Who seek Him with all their heart!" (Psalm 119:2).

## **8. You are Mine!**

“When He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13).

God longs to reveal truth to us increasingly in His Word. He sends His Spirit to dwell in believers to make our knowing about Him an ever growing impartation of our knowing Him.

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only True God and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

God is always desiring a closer, deeper personal relationship with each of us.

In His Word your Creator and Savior keeps presenting Himself to you. He keeps revealing Himself, His purposes, and His ways because He has given you new birth as His son or daughter. You are His and you need to keep deciding about Him, His ways in your life, and His will for you as a member of His family. He wants you to delight in Him. He wants you to love Him with all your heart.

Read John 17:13-19.