

INTRODUCTION

A. DEFINITION: ONE GOD; THREE PERSONS (Dt.6:4; Mt.28:19)

B. LIMITATION: INFINITE, ETERNAL, UNCHANGABLE (Gn.1:1; Ex3:14; Jb11:7; 38:4; Is55:8; Rm9:20)

C. REVELATION: MAKES KNOWN vs. DISCOVERED (Ex3:14; 34:6f; Jer23:16; Rm1:19f; Col.1:26f; 2Tm3:14f)

I. BIBLE: WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF

A. THE TRINITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (Gen.1:1f,26(Jn.1:1f); Ps.51:11; 110:1)

B. THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT (Lk.3:22; Mt.28:19; 2Cor.13:14)

II. DOCTRINE: HOW WE CAN SUMMARIZE BIBLE TEACHING

A. THEISM: THE EXISTENCE & ATTRIBUTES OF GOD (Rom.1:19,20; Jn.10:16,27 /Psalms; e.g., 19:1f)

B. TRINITY: THE PERSONS & WORKS OF GOD

1. Persons: Father & Son & Spirit (Mt.28:19; see Mt.5:16f & Jn.1:14,18 & Jn.15:26 /“*same* in substance, *equal* in power and glory”; SC, #6)

2. Work: Appoint & Accomplish & Apply (Eph1:3,4 & 7 & 13 /*sending*; Jn10:36 & Jn14:26(Gal.4:6); 15:26)

3. Time: Timeless & Timely & Timing (Eph.1:4 & Gal.4:4 & Ezk.37:9; Jn.3:8)

III. PRACTICE: HOW WE BEHAVE IN VIEW OF THESE BELIEFS (see 1Th.2:12; Jn.13:17)

A. ATHEISM: AVOID INTELLIGENT FOOLISHNESS (Ps.14:1(53:1); Rom.1:22,21f; see Job11:7; 38:4; Is.55:8; Rom.9:20)

B. UNITARIANISM: AVOID SUBJECTING GOD TO YOUR WISDOM (Ex.3:14; 34:6f; Jer.23:16; Rom.1:19f; Col.1:26f; 2Tim.3:14f)

C. THEISM: REST IN THE ALMIGHTY GOD! (Rom.1:19f; Jn.10:28,29; 11:25-30; Mt.6:25f)

D. TRINITARIANISM: LESSONS FOR INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETY

1. the image of God in man (Gen.1:26f; see 2:18f; 4:1f)

2. begotten, proceeds (Gen.2:21f (1Cor.11:8); 1Cor.7:14)

3. same in substance, equal in power and glory (1Cor.11:11,12; Gal.3:28; 1Pt.3:7)

4. sent (Eph.4:4-6 & 11f w/5:25f; 22f; 6:1f; “A,A,A”?)

5. society: individual and group (Dt.6:4; Mt.28:19; see Eph.4:16; 1Cor.12:1ff)

NEXT WEEK: THE INCARNATION (Christmas; two Natures in one Person; the Person and Work of Christ)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What verses covered were most helpful? How so?
4. What do we know about God? How do we know it? What must we be very careful to avoid in our pursuit of knowing God?
5. In Matthew 28:19, what indicates the Three? What indicates the One?
6. How is an atheist like an alcoholic who is "in denial"?
7. What are the blessings of theism?
8. What are the blessings of trinitarianism...
 - a. To the individual?
 - b. To society?
9. Why do you think atheism is so popular and so aggressive today?
10. What have you read or heard by atheist writers? What in their work do you find most challenging?
11. What have you read in response to atheist writers? What in their work do you find most helpful?
12. Have you read *Knowing God* by J.I.Packer? What did you find most useful to your faith and life in God?