

Theology Proper — The Invisibility of God

I. SCRIPTURAL — *Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.*

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” (Jn. 1:18)

II. DOCTRINAL — *“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible...” (1 Tim. 1:17)*

A. GOD’S ESSENCE, BEING IMMATERIAL, IS NOT DIRECTLY PERCEPTIBLE TO OUR PHYSICAL SENSES.

B. GOD’S ESSENCE, BEING INFINITELY TRANSCENDENT, IS NOT DIRECTLY PERCEPTIBLE TO OUR PHYSICAL SENSES, APART FROM HIS OWN VOLUNTARY SELF-REVELATION.

III. POLEMICAL — *“And they saw the God of Israel.” (Ex. 24:10)*

A. DO VISUAL DEPICTIONS OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE IMPLY A VISIBLE DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)

B. DO VISIBLE APPEARANCES OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE IMPLY A VISIBLE DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)

C. DOES CHRIST’S STATUS AS THE IMAGE OF GOD IMPLY A VISIBLE DIVINE ESSENCE? (We Deny.)

D. ARE WE PERMITTED TO INCORPORATE VISIBLE IMAGES OF GOD INTO OUR WORSHIP AND/OR RELIGIOUS LIFE? (We Deny.)

E. ARE WE PERMITTED TO FORM VISUAL MENTAL IMAGES OF GOD? (We Deny.)

F. WILL THE GLORIFIED SAINTS IN HEAVEN SEE GOD’S ESSENCE — THAT IS, PERCEIVE HIS ESSENCE WITH THEIR PHYSICAL SENSES? (We Deny.)

G. IS GOD INVISIBLE IN EVERY SENSE? (We Deny.)

IV. PRACTICAL — *“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.” (1 Cor. 13:12)*

A. WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT!

1. LOOK TO THE INVISIBLE GOD AS YOUR MERCIFUL HEAVENLY FATHER!

2. LOOK THROUGH GOD INCARNATE, THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD!

3. LOOK BY THE ILLUMINATING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

B. WALK BY FAITH UNTO SIGHT!

1. PURSUE PEACE WITH ALL!

2. PURSUE PERSONAL HOLINESS!