

Bible Doctrines I
Fundamental Bible Baptist Institute
Class Eight

The Doctrine of God
Part I: The Existence of God

I. Scripture Assumes the Existence of God:

- A. Genesis 1:1 says *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* God does not argue for His Existence. He expects mankind to simply accept the fact that He exists. Hence, He starts the Bible with the words, *“In the beginning, God.”*
- B. Herbert Lockyer in his book ‘All the Doctrines of the Bible’ said *“...it never occurred to any prophet or apostle to prove the existence of God, as all writers pre-supposed God’s existence with their writings being the product of His influence. Everywhere in the Bible, the existence of God is assumed as a fact...The doctrine of Scripture on the knowability of God is much more extensive than its doctrine regarding His existence.”*
- C. The burden of responsibility is not on the Eternal God to prove His own existence to finite men; rather, it is on finite man to believe that the eternal God is. Hebrews 11:6 says *“...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is...”*.
- D. Again, John 1:1-3 simply states *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”* Once again, we assert the fact that the Scriptures never argue for the existence of God; they simply assume the existence of God.
 - 1. The Atheist says there is no God.
 - 2. The Agnostic says that he does not know whether there is a God or not.
 - 3. The Materialist boasts that he does not need a God.
 - 4. The Sinner wishes that there is no God.
 - 5. The Christian answers that he could not live without God.

II. Creation Declares the Existence of God:

- A. Psalm 19:1-2 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”*
 - 1. Charles Spurgeon commenting on Psalm 19:1-3 said *“The book of nature has three leaves, heaven, earth, and sea, of which heaven is the first and the most glorious, and by its aid we are able to see the beauties of the other two. Any book without its first page would be sadly imperfect, and especially the great Natural Bible, since its first pages, the sun, moon, and stars, supply light to the rest of the volume, and are thus the keys, without which the writing which follows would be dark and undiscerned. Man walking erect was evidently made to scan the skies, and he who begins to read creation by studying the stars begins the book at the right place. Every man may hear the voices of the stars. Many are the languages of terrestrials, to celestials there is but one, and that one may be understood by every willing mind. The lowest heathen are without excuse, if they do not discover the invisible things of God in the works which he has made. Sun, moon, and stars are God’s travelling preachers; they are apostles upon their journey confirming those who regard the Lord, and judges on circuit condemning those who worship idols.”*

2. Herbert Lockyer said *“A house proves that it must have a builder, and the universe with all its wonders must have a Maker.”*
- B. Romans 1:19-20 says *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*
- C. Creation’s Disbelief of God would leave:
 1. Creation without a Creator;
 2. Design without a Designer;
 3. The Universe without a Controller;
 4. Human History without a Ruler;
 5. Morality without any basis of Authority;
 6. Iniquity without any moral Restraint;
 7. Death without any Hope.

III. Human Conscience Demands the Existence of God:

- A. Romans 2:14-15 *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;).”*
- B. Romans 1:18-19 says *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”*
- C. John 1:9 *“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*
- D. The feeling of guilt in the heart and soul of a man is proof of the existence of God. If there was no God, why then would a man experience guilt? Human conscience cannot keep a man from sinning or force a man to do right, but it sure gives us peace or guilt when we do right and wrong. If there be no God, then who gave man his conscience? How did man come to basic conclusions of moral right and wrong? How does a man become convicted in his conscience if there is no moral determinative authority? Human Conscience demands the Existence of God! Proverbs 20:27 says *“The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.”*

IV. Jesus Manifested the Existence of God:

- A. John 1:1-3, 14 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*
- B. Matthew 1:23 says *“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”*
- C. Hebrews 1:1-4 *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*
- D. I Timothy 3:16 *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*

- E. Jesus claimed to be one with God in John 10:30 when He said *“I and my Father are one.”* Jesus claimed to have glory with God before the world was created according to John 17:5 *“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”* In John 8:58, He said *“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”*
- F. Jesus was the manifestation of the nature, character, and attributes of God in human form. He manifested the glory of God, the holiness of God, the impeccability of God, the wisdom of God, the holiness of God, the love of God, the grace of God, the goodness of God, and the mercy of God! What a Man! What a Saviour! But WHAT A GOD!!! We will learn much more about the Deity of Christ in our study on “the Doctrine of Christ”.
- G. *“Who is there with all his innate and acquired wisdom able to explain the mystery of—
The Ancient of Days becoming a babe at Bethlehem—
Him Who thunders in the heavens crying in a cradle—
Him Who gives to all their meat in due season, sucking at a mother’s breast—
Him Who made all flesh now made of flesh—
Him Who could summon legions of angels, while wrapped in infant’s clothes—
The mighty God now a helpless child—
God and man becoming one Person.”* – Herbert Lockyer