

HOW CAN MAN KNOW GOD?

August 26, 2018

Romans 10:1-21

Mankind possess an innate understanding that there is a God. This does not come from Scripture, for cultures having no Bible believe God exists. It does not come from education, for illiterate peoples believe in God. It does not come from organized religion, for cultures without any structured religion believe in God.

It comes from God. He has programmed human conscience to understand that He exists (Romans 1:19). Moreover, by God's design creation declares His glory in a "language" that every language-group understands (Psalm 19:1-3). Consequently, mankind is more inclined to polytheism—the belief in many gods—than to atheism.

An estimated 4300 world-religions confirm this, and are ample evidence that man not only believes in God, but also believes that he is separated from God. Religions are invented in the effort to bridge that gulf. They all prescribe what man must do in the hope of being received by God.

Whereas some profess to be atheists, that profession is a back-door acknowledgement of deity, and invites the observation that atheism "doth protest too much." Far more ominous is the blight of a secularized church. People profess full confidence in God's existence, but he (or she) is a god they've imagined, and not the true God. They feel no separation from him, for he is little more than a reflection of themselves. Before the one true God, sinless seraphim modestly cover their faces and cry "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:1-6). But the secularized church exhibits no evidence that such a gulf exists between the sinful creature and the holy God.

How is God known unto man? What does the Scripture teach regarding man knowing God?

1. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable;

ROMANS 2:14 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: 15 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;

1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 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.

PSALM 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

ROMANS 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. 2:1 Therefore thou art unexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that

judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

2. . . . yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of His will, which is necessary unto salvation.

I CORINTHIANS 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

3. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His Church;

HEBREWS 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

4. . . . and afterwards for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing;

PROVERBS 22:19 That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. 20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, 21 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

LUKE 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

ROMANS 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

MATTHEW 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

ISAIAH 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

5. . . . which makes the Holy Scripture to be most necessary;

II TIMOTHY 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II PETER 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.

6. . . . those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.

HEBREWS 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 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.

