

Systematic Theology session 10
The Doctrine of God, "I Am Who I Am," Part 4

- God's attribute of omniscience.
 - Definition of omniscience: God knows all things, all events, and all circumstances, past, present, and future, in a way that is perfect and immediate.
 - Omniscience is an incommunicable attribute of God's greatness.
 - God's knowledge is *perfect*: His knowledge is never faulty or incomplete.
 - God's knowledge is *immediate*: God does not need or use intermediate means or tools to have knowledge.
 - Humans can gain knowledge by finding things out with our senses, but God simply knows all things without having to access sensory information.
 - Humans can gain knowledge by investigation, but God knows without investigation.
 - Humans gain knowledge by relying on an authoritative source, but there is no authority above God, and He does not use any other source to gain knowledge.
 - Humans gain knowledge gradually, and often have to unlearn faulty knowledge. God's knowledge is comprehensive and infallible.
 - God's knowledge is *infinite*: He cannot learn, since He cannot gain any further knowledge that He doesn't already have. There are no gaps in God's knowledge. His knowledge of future things is not contingent; it does not change with the actions of people.
 - God is never taken by surprise by finding out something He didn't already know.
 - God's knowledge is *immutable*: the knowledge of God is incapable of change.
 - People cannot hide their actions, thoughts, or intentions of the heart from God's knowledge.
 - God's knowledge is so comprehensive, that He knows His own thoughts and nature comprehensively. Only God can know the depths of God. We can only know the things of God that God reveals to us.
 - God's infinite power requires His infinite knowledge and understanding.
 - What omniscience is not (errors to avoid):
 - God does not discover things by investigation; He does not find out knowledge by reasoning to conclusions.
 - God's knowledge does not exclude things we would consider trivial.
 - The heresy of Open Theism: an attempt to solve a perceived tension between man's free will and God's foreknowledge of man's decisions.
 - Open Theism asserts that the future free will decisions of man do not yet exist, and are therefore not subjects of knowledge; therefore, God does not know the future free will decisions of people.
 - Refutation: God not only knows the future decisions of people, He foreordains those decisions. Otherwise, prophecy that involves these decisions would never be certain.
 - Christians should be comforted by God's omniscience. God knows our situations, our sufferings, and He hears our prayers. God also has determined the day of our deaths, and that day is precious in His sight (Psalm 116:15). The Lord Jesus knows the true state of His flock, the church.
 - God's omniscience should bring dread to those who rebel against God.