LESSON 8

What the Bible Teaches About God

Read: Psalm 139, Isaiah 40 and Acts 17:22-31

1. Q. What does the Bible teach about God?

   A. The Bible teaches that God is a Spirit. God is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, and also in His holiness, justice, wisdom, power, goodness and truth. There is only one God. He consists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

2. Q. What is a brief summary of all that a true Christian should believe?

   A. The Twelve Articles of our Christian faith, called 'The Apostolic Creed'.

3. Q. How are these Twelve Articles divided?

   A. Into four parts:

   (a) The first part speaks of God the Father and our creation.

   (b) The second speaks of God the Son and our redemption.

   (c) The third speaks of God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

   (d) The fourth speaks of the Church of Jesus Christ and the blessings she receives from Him.

With this lesson, we begin a study of the great teachings of the Bible as outlined in the Twelve Articles of the Apostolic Creed. The Apostolic Creed is not literally found in the Bible, but it contains the teachings which the apostles taught. It was formulated by the Christian Church in its present form approximately A.D. 500.

In this lesson we learn about God, His being, His divine attributes, and His existence as the triune God. God is great; He is infinitely great; therefore, we cannot possibly comprehend Him.

We should not attempt this either. We should rather pray to God that He may give us a child-like spirit so that we may humbly bow before His holy Majesty, that we may confess our sins and earnestly plead for His mercy.

It should be our chief desire in life to learn to know God in His sacred love and compassionate mercy revealed in Christ. Those who know God by His Holy Spirit's grace will humbly worship Him and they will gladly obey His will.

I. God is a Spiritual Being

1. Q. How did Jesus describe God in John 4:24a?

   A. "God is a _ _ _ _ _ _ ." This means that there is nothing material about God.

2. Q. In Psalm 34:15, 16 we read of the eyes, the ears, and the face of the Lord. Is this figurative language or should we take these words literally?

   A. This is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ language.

3. Can God be compared to the angels who are spiritual beings, or to the soul of man which is spirit?

   (a) Yes.

   (b) No.

   Underline the correct answer above and complete the Bible text below from Exodus 8:10d.

   "that _ none like _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ God."

4. Q. How does God differ from men and angels? (Colossians 1:16).

   A. God is the infinite Cr _ _ _ _ _ ; men and angels are but cr _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

5. In Colossians 1:15 we read of the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ God.

6. There are many proofs in the Bible that God hears and answers prayer. In Psalm 34:6 we read of an experiential proof. May we all be enabled to testify sooner or later with the Psalmist, "This _ _ _ _ man _ _ _ _ _ , and the Lord _ _ _ _ _ him, and _ _ _ _ _ him out of all his _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

Do you pray?

II. God's Attributes

According to Exodus 33:17-23 and 34:5-8, if we wish to know God, we must know Him by faith as He is revealed to us in His attributes. The Bible tells us that God is: infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His holiness, wisdom, knowledge, righteousness, truth, power and love. After each of the following Scripture verses, write what the Bible teaches about God; then select one of the attributes of God from the paragraph above to fill in the second blank.

1. What does the Bible teach about God:

   (a) In Jeremiah 23:24? "Do not I fill _ _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _? saith the _ _ _ _ ."

   God is inf _ _ _ _ _ .

   (b) In Psalm 90:2c? "From _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Thou art _ _ _ ."

   God is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ or everlasting.

(c) In Malachi 3:6a? " _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

God is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ or immutable.

(d) In Leviticus 19:2c? "For _ ."

God is infinitely _ _ _ _ .

(e) In Isaiah 40:13? "Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ counsellor _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ?"

God is infinitely _ _ _ _ .

(f) In Psalm 139:1-4 (in brief)? God _ _ _ _ _ all about me; God is all-knowing.

God's _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is infinite.

(g) In Psalm 145:17a? "_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ in all his ways."

God is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

(h) In Deut. 32:4b? He is "a _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ _ and without iniquity."

God is a God of _ _ _ _ _ .

(i) In Job 42:2a? "I know that _ _ _ _ canst _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

God is all-mighty or all-p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

(j) In 1 John 4:8b? "for _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

God is _ _ _ _ .

A Pastoral Message

God's love is more to be desired than all the treasures of this earth! The important question is, "How can God, Who is holy, love a sinner?" Indeed, God can love and pardon for Christ's sake. This is a great wonder. This is the marvel of all ages!

God sent His Son into this world to be the Mediator between a holy God and guilty sinners. This precious Saviour willingly paid the great ransom price to deliver from the burden of sin and misery. Christ, the just and holy One, suffered during His entire life, but especially on the cross of Calvary, in the place of transgressors. He satisfied God's justice, so that God in His infinite love can pardon sinners in harmony with truth and righteousness.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

2. Could God improve His attributes?

   (a) Yes.

   (b) No.

   Underline the correct answer.

3. Q. How is God described to be in Matthew 5:48b?

   A. God is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

III. God is a Triune God

1. How many Gods are there? (1 Timothy 2:5a)

   (a) One. (b) Three. (c) Many.

   Underline which is correct.

2. The Bible reveals God as a 'triune' God - one divine Being but consisting of _ _ _ _ _ distinct Persons, the _ _ _ _ _ _ , the _ _ _ , and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Matthew 28:19b). Triune means Three in One.

3. Q. In what words is the plurality in the Godhead seen in Genesis 1:26a?

   A. God said, "Let _ _ make man in _ _ _ image."

   In the following passages we read that the creation of man is ascribed to the Father (1 Corinthians 8:6), to the Son (John 1:3, 10; Colossians 1:16), and to the Holy Spirit (Job 33:4). Therefore, since it was God who created man (Genesis 1:27a), we believe that Genesis 1:26, 27 teaches God's triune existence.

4. Q. How is the Trinity revealed in the baptism of Jesus? (Matthew 3:16, 17)

   A. Who speaks? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . Who is baptized? _ _ _ _ _ _ .

   Who descends? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

5. Q. How is the Trinity revealed in John 15:26?

   A. Who will be sent? The C _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , which is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

   Who will send Him? _ _ _ _ _ _ .

   From whom will He be sent? From _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

6. Q. Is salvation possible for anyone who refuses to believe in the triune God? (Matthew 28:19 with Mark 16:16)

   (a) Yes. (b) No.

   Underline the correct one.

7. Q. What is promised to those who know the one true God? (John 17:3a).

   A. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ !

Evaluator: _____