

Track

D1: God

The Necessity of Knowing God

Scripture does not make an argument for the existence of God. It is _____. "***The fool says in his heart that there is no God***" (Ps 14:1). The idea that God does not exist is treated as especially _____ by the Bible. The various arguments for the existence of God will be addressed in another course.

_____ Him is the most important task we have. God said in Jeremiah 9:24-25, "***Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight.***" Jesus said that knowing God is the definition of eternal life (John 17:3).

Knowing God is the most noble, most life-changing, and most challenging of all pursuits. "***Such knowledge is too wonderful for me...***" (Psalm 139:6). Charles Spurgeon once said, "*I believe ... that the proper study of God's elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.*"

And yet, God invites us to know Him, and to contemplate Him, because without Him, nothing else matters. Tony Evans lists 3 important clarifications about knowing God:

First, it is more than just _____

Second, it is more than just _____

Third, it is more than _____

"To know God is to have Him rub off on you, to enter into relationship with God so that who He is _____ who you are." (p22).

Knowing God isn't always comfortable. Knowing the truth of what God is like will also

show us what we are like. God tells _____. We like to be lied to. We don't like facing who we really are. When we come to God we will see Him and He will show us what we really look like. We will be like Peter in Luke 5:8 and say, "***I am a sinful man.***"

The Names of God

"What's in a name?" One of the greatest joys is having a child and naming that child. Often people nowadays want unique names for their kids and try to come up with names that no one else has ever heard before.

What is the significance of a name? It indicates _____. It enables us to relate to that person. Their name takes on personal meaning as we come to know them. All that they are and all we know about them is captured by the name which we call them. It's a way of saying, "You are".

God said to Moses that His name was "_____". In the Bible the greater person names the lesser. God named Adam. Adam named Eve and the animals. God the Father named Jesus. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. Names are often loaded with meaning in the Bible. God's names are not random. His names have meaning and they teach us about Him so we can know Him.

_____ (YHWH), Exodus 3:14, means "Self-existent One". Emphasizes His holiness, hatred of sin, and love of sinners. (Ryrie)

_____ meaning "Strong One". It is a plural word and is the plural of majesty. This allows for the later revelation of the Trinity, but, the name does not teach the trinity. (Ryrie)

_____, meaning "Lord". Master - Indicates the master-servant relationship. (Ryrie)

The Nature of God

"When we talk about the nature of God, we speak of the characteristics intrinsic to His being. What is He and what does He do naturally? (Tony Evans)

God is _____, "***For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'***" -Isa.

55:8-9. God is nothing like me. God is entirely above me and the rest of His creation. He is completely distinct from it. He is not “part” of it. There is nothing to compare Him to. He is totally unique – there is nothing equal to Him or even close enough like Him to give us even an idea of what He is like.

God is _____, “***God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and truth.***” -John 4:24. God is an immaterial, invisible, person (Ex. 3:14).

God is _____, “***Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.***” -Ps. 90:2. He is without beginning and without end. He is uncreated and He is indestructible. He is absolutely independent.

God is _____, “***Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.***” -James 1:17. He is unchanging. His purposes, His character, His promises never change. He cannot be bribed, He does not forget, He cannot be coerced, He is not “sold” by anybody, He is not capricious or whimsical. He is sure, solid, and immovable. Because of this, we can know Him and trust Him.

God is a _____ (Deut. 6:4; Isa 45:5; 1 Cor. 8:4 and Gen. 1:1, 26; Isa 48:16; Gal. 1:1, 3; John 20:28; Acts 5:3-4). God is described as _____ in the Bible, but, He is also _____, _____, and _____.

All 3 are called _____ in the Bible. *The Bible makes no apologies or attempts to rationalize these assertions.* This is a hard concept to understand but it should not be hard to accept as true. God is transcendent and He is not like us. He is not _____ by the laws that we are limited by. He exists beyond the laws He has bound His creatures to. Once we accept that, we can accept the reality that God transcendentally exists as one God but 3 persons.

Attributes of God

The Holiness of God (Rev. 4:8)

The Sovereignty of God (Dan. 7:14)

The Glory of God (Psalm 24:10)

The Omnipresence of God (Psalm 139:7-12)

The **Omnipotence** of God (Eph. 3:20)
The **Omniscience** of God (Rom. 11:33-34)
The **Goodness of God** (Mark 10:18)
The **Wrath** of God (Rom. 1:18; Rev. 6:16-17)
The **Love of God** (John 3:16)
The **Grace** of God (1 Peter 5:10)

Go Further

Isaiah 40:18; 55:8-9; Psalm 50:21; Exodus 3:14; Hebrews 13:8

The Attributes of God by A.W. Tozer

Knowing God by J.I. Packer

Answer Key

Necessity of Knowing God: assumed; foolish; knowing; awareness; knowledge; facts; influence; the truth

Names of God: personhood; I AM; Jehovah; Elohim; Adonai;

Nature of God: Transcendent; Spirit; Eternal; Immutable; Triune God; one; Father; Son; Spirit; God; limited