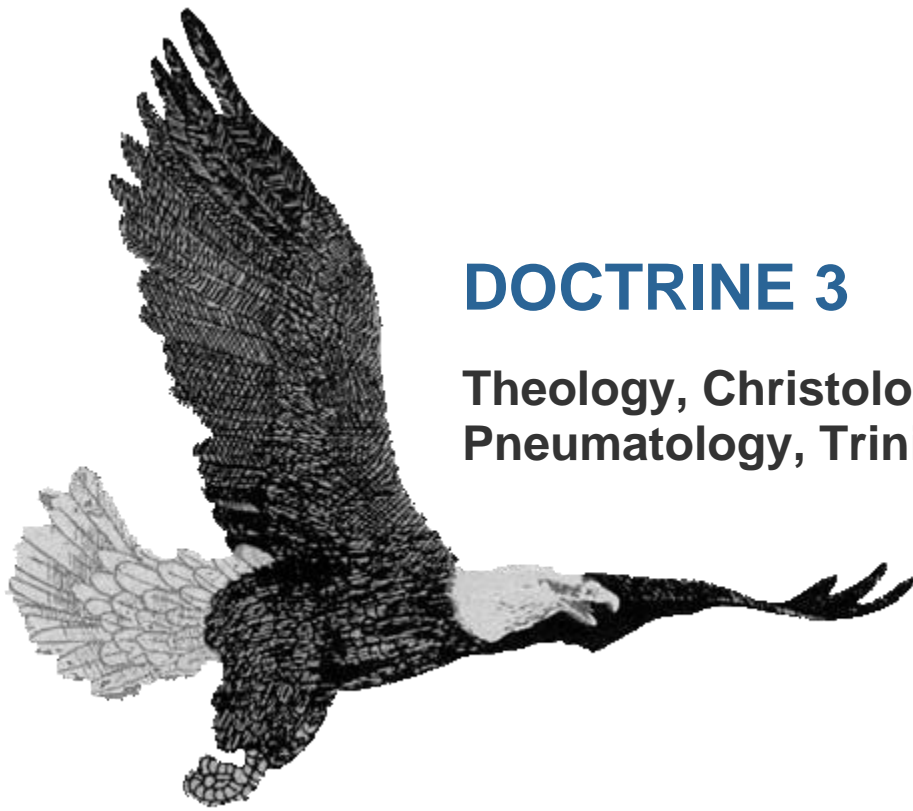


Third Year

TEXTBOOK



DOCTRINE 3

Theology, Christology,
Pneumatology, Trinity

DELIVERANCE BIBLE INSTITUTE of MOSHI

Moshi, Kilimanjaro, TanzaniaMoshi, Kilimanjro, Tanzania

DELIVERANCE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Portland, Maine, USA

Introduction to Doctrine 3

Objectives of this Course

Personal

To aid the student in his personal study, contemplation, and understanding of God with an extended overview.

Understandable

To make the material and vocabulary of this subject intelligible to beginning students as well as advanced students.

True

Truth is absolute, but our understanding of Truth grows clearer the more we lend our heart and mind to the Holy Ghost and His Word. This course is written knowing that ongoing study with its additions, revisions, enlargements, and modifications is necessary.

Unifying

It is important that our study be motivated by a passion for the Scriptures and our Lord. Any other motive will cause our learning only to be divisive and destructive. Any truth learned and applied is an awesome blessing and no cause for boasting. Remember that because our knowledge and understanding is fluid we must use much grace when Christian's disagree on doctrinal points. No person or church has a monopoly on God and it is dangerous to study and present the Scriptures as if you are the only one who is right.

Ephesians 4:3,13 -- Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Personal Qualifications for this Course

1. The ardent love of truth for its own sake.
2. The supreme and disinterested love of God.
3. An intense desire to know more of God.
4. A strong desire to make Him known to others and a willingness to make any personal sacrifice for this end.
5. A sense of ignorance and dependence upon Divine teaching and such humility as to be willing to expose your ignorance.
6. A willingness to apply and practice as fast as you learn.
7. A fixed purpose to know and do the whole truth which is the will of God.
8. A state of mind that will not be diverted to make provision for the flesh.
9. Docility of mind. (Teachable; obedient; submissive disposition; no desire to rebel against authority, or control.)
10. The love of study.
11. Sound education. (Education is obviously an asset to any student, yet God can work with what you know, if you are willing to apply yourself and build upon what knowledge you do have.)
12. Industrious habits.
13. Patience and perseverance in investigation.
14. A mind so balanced as to be duly influenced by evidence.

Personal Benefits from Doctrine

1. A constantly increasing sense of your own ignorance.
2. The highest advantages for growth in personal holiness.
3. The habit of rapid, correct, and consecutive thought.
4. System in thinking and communicating thought.
5. Facility in preparations for the pulpit.
6. Exactness in the statement of the doctrines of Christianity.
7. Facility in proving them.
8. Consistency of views and statements.
9. A settled state of mind in regard to religious truth.
10. Ability to teach the doctrines and duties of religion.

SOME THINGS TO BE AVOIDED

1. Avoid tempting God, by demanding an impossible or unreasonable kind or degree of evidence.
2. Avoid a cavilling state of mind.
3. Avoid defending error for the sake of an argument.
4. Avoid committing yourself to an opinion.
5. Avoid calling in question first truths.
6. Avoid attempting to prove them.
7. Avoid begging the question.
8. Avoid impatience at the ignorance or stupidity of your classmates.
9. Avoid an ambition to excel them in study and argument.
10. Avoid a disputatious spirit.
11. Avoid stating one thing and proving another in your skeletons [outlines].
12. Avoid the use of weak and inconclusive arguments.
13. Avoid an involved method of stating your propositions.
14. Avoid stating more than you can prove.
15. Avoid leaving your propositions, until fully supported by evidence or argument.
16. Avoid the accumulation of evidence or argument after your proposition is fully established.
17. Avoid prolixity in the statement of your propositions.
18. Avoid the great error of supposing that truths that are self-evident to some minds are so to all.

Taken from Finney's Lectures on Theology, by Charles G. Finney and published by Bethany Fellowship in 1976 under the title The Heart of Truth.

Outline for Our Study of Doctrine III

I. Introduction

II. Theology

III. Christology

IV. Pneumatology

V. Trinity

Introduction to Theology

The Definition of Theology

Three popular Views of the Term

Christian (Bible Theology):

The science of God (His existence, nature, attributes, laws, government, works, whatever may be known of Him), of the relations that exist between God and the universe, and of our relations, duties, responsibilities to Him and the universe. It is the science of things divine. This view, in its broadest sense, includes all knowledge/truth.

Scientific:

The critical, historical, philosophical and psychological study of religion and religious ideas.

Common:

The study of man's universal concepts of a Higher Power or Person.

Etymology of the Term

Two Greek words supply the basic meaning. a. Theos: God b. Logos: word, speech, reason. The etymology suggests a reasoned treatise or discourse about God.

Use of the Term

Broad, general, inclusive:

The sum of all Christian doctrines, or religious truth; rational inquiry into religious questions.

Narrow, particular, exclusive:

The doctrine of God, His Being and His works.

Synonymous treatment of doctrine and theology

Both are sciences that treat of religious beliefs, creeds and principles.

Both are divine revelations of truth. Doctrine is the specific revelation of truth. Dogma is the human statement of the truth incorporated in a creed.

The Ground of Theology

The unmistakable evidences of the existence of a God who is related to our universe.

The capacity of the human mind to know God and certain of those relations.

The provision of a revelation that brings God and the human being into contact and communion.

The absolute dependence of the human being on a Higher Power to live at peace with himself and his fellow creatures.

The ever recurrent questions concerning human origin, human destiny and the riddle of life demand intelligible answers.

The Sources of Theology

There are two authentic sources.

Nature (Natural Theology)

The universe and the world in which we live. (Psalm 19:1-4)

The intuitive response to nature's light. (Romans 1:8-20; 2:14,15)

Natural knowledge is elemental and limited (Acts 17:23)

The Holy Scriptures (Revealed Theology)

They are absolute, final and complete.

They give saving knowledge.

There are three undependable sources.

Traditionalism

This theory asserts the claim that the ecclesiastical interpretations of the Scriptures are equal to, and often superior to, the Holy Scriptures themselves. This is a Roman fallacy.

Rationalism

This theory places reason above revelation. The rationalists reject all Scriptures that do not pass the test of human understanding and reason. The miracles of the Bible are subjected to these tests. The rationalists give three interpretations to the miracles: Natural, Mystical, and Mythical.

Mysticism

This theory supports the practice of getting new light about God through personal revelation. Subjective experience is claimed to be equal to written revelation. Personal notions and prejudices may lead to error.

The Relationships of Theology

Theology is a science.

It treats of certified facts and data that are logically arranged and classified.

Religion is a life/lifestyle.

The Latin meaning is to bind or tie fast, to restrain. Religion is a life in communion with and controlled by God.

Morality is a law.

i.e., a code of behavior by which people govern themselves; a system of ideas of right and wrong conduct.

Worship is an art.

It is the outward expression of religion.

Salvation is an experience.

It involves a personal awareness of God and divine forgiveness.

A theologian may be only a scientist.

A Christian student of theology fits all the relationships.

The Classifications of Theology

Exegetical Theology

The study of the original languages of the Bible to explain the true meaning of the Scriptures --€” Hebrew, Aramaic of the Old Testament and Greek of the New Testament.

Historical Theology

The study of the history of the church and the development of doctrinal interpretation.

Dogmatic

Theology The study of church creeds and the fundamentals of truth found in them.

Systematic

Theology The study of a composite picture of theology taken from the Bible, history, philosophy and man's general knowledge of God. The subject matter arranged in a systematic form gives a comprehensive view of man's idea of God. Biblical Theology This is the simple, direct study of God and Christian doctrine taken exclusively from the Bible.

The Scope of Theology

Bibliology: Doctrine of the Bible

Theology: Doctrine of God

Angelology: Doctrine of Angels (Satan included)

Anthropology: Doctrine of Man

Harmartiology: Doctrine of Sin

Soteriology: Doctrine of Salvation

Christology: Doctrine of Christ

Pneumatology: Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Ecclesiology: Doctrine of the Church

Eschatology: Doctrine of the Future

Limitations of Theology

The human mind is finite.

Infinitude seems out of reach.

Sin has weakened intellectual powers.

The apparent disharmony between science and the Bible.

Inadequate scientific data.

Modern scientists gradually bowing to revelation.

The inadequacy of human language to describe deity.

St. Paul mentioned the ineffable glories of God.

Christ was the mysterious Word of God.

The silence of written revelation.

Basic principles are clearly expressed.

The Bible is silent on many subjects.

Principles are applied according to the law of analogy.

The barrier between the flesh and the spirit

God can assume many forms. He is essentially Spirit.

Human beings are corporeal. They possess spirit.

The Value of Theology

It is the foundation of solid Christian experience.

Right believing is the first requisite of saving grace.

It builds a pattern for living the Christian way.

It builds a moral pattern.

Moral - Relating to the practice, manners or conduct of men as social beings in relation to each other, and with reference to right and wrong. - Webster's 1828 edition.

It guards against a pattern of immorality.

Immoral - Inconsistent with moral rectitude; contrary to the moral or divine law; wicked; unjust; dishonest; vicious. - Webster's 1828 edition.

It helps the believer to build an understanding of the Amoral attributes of God.

Amoral- Being neither moral nor immoral specifically : lying outside the sphere to which moral judgments apply. - Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary.(Eleventh ed.) This as an old English word that can also be rendered non-moral and refers to attributes of the Divine essence that do not involve moral qualities. An example would be the Omnipotence of God, which is an attribute of the very nature of God and cannot be changed.

It protects the mind against error.

Truth garrisons the heart and mind.

It is a necessary qualification for the ministry.

To preach about God, one must know Him and know about Him. With open minds, humble hearts and absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit, we begin our quest of God and divine things.

ASSIGNMENT: Read this entire Introduction to Theology; bring to class at least three written questions or remarks generated from reading this entire introduction. Also, be prepared to answer questions regarding this information.

Existence of God

God's Existence Affirmed

There is no formal proof of God's existence in the Bible.

Let us begin this section of our study with the question: Does the Bible attempt to prove the existence of God?

The answer is no, the Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God.

The existence of God is related as an evident fact.

The first verse in the Bible opens with: In the beginning God. God does not try to prove who He is. He is God. God told Moses: I Am that I Am.

"No attempt is made to demonstrate God's existence because everywhere in the Bible God is set forth as known." -- A.B. Davidson

Man is called on to believe in God.

Hebrews 11:6 -- But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Psalms 14:1 -- The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.

God's Existence Proven

Why Try?

If the Scriptures offer no reasoned demonstration of God's existence, why do we make the attempt?

To convince genuine seekers after God.

To strengthen the faith of those who already believe.

To enrich our knowledge of the nature of God.

Argument from Creation

The argument from creation which is referred to as the cosmological argument.

"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." -Romans 1:20

This Scripture tells us God reveals Himself through His creation. The invisible things of God are seen in the creation of the world. The Scripture explains it is God's eternal power that is shown forth in His creation. The Godhead is also revealed through His creation. The Godhead is the term used to refer to the three persons within the one God. The number three is prominent in all of nature. God is revealing to man the invisible things of Him: THAT HE IS A TRIUNE GOD, which we will study in the section the Trinity of God.

The power of God is revealed through creation.

There is so much power in nature. God spoke the word and the worlds were framed by the word of God. -- Heb. 11:3. Only God can create life, from the single celled amoeba to the trillion cells of man who is fearfully and wonderfully made God shows the vastness of His power to create life. Think of the greatness of the universe. Our own sun, which is considered a small star, emits more energy in one second than has been used by man since the beginning of time. Let us also consider the power of the wind: the hurricanes, tornadoes, and storms that have wrecked havoc to everything in their path. All of this is only natural power. It cannot compare to the eternal power of God.

The complexity of creation.

From the sea creatures that create their own light thousands of feet beneath the ocean floor to the flight of a hummingbird that can stop in mid air to hover over a flower and then fly backwards to continue its flight, creation is too complex to have happened by chance. The DNA composition of man is far too complex to even begin to explain in this class. Do you think the complex 747 jet was produced from a bomb in a junkyard? It is absurd to think this great universe was formed from a big bang.

The wonders of God's creation.

There are so many wonderful things in nature. Think of the beauty of a sunset, the majesty of the oceans, or the splendor of the mountains. Who guides the migration of the monarch butterfly from North America over the Gulf of Mexico and into Mexico? The butterflies lay eggs in Mexico before they die and the new butterflies migrate back to North America where their parents were hatched. These butterflies consistently fly to a place they have never been to without getting lost. What other explanation for this migration other than the will of God. How is it that hydrogen and oxygen, two explosive gases, do not explode when combined to form a water molecule? The little acorn contains the blueprint for the great oak tree. Who tells the male stag horn beetle to allow room in his cocoon for his antennae while the female does not? The wonders of creation are not by chance; they are the work of God.

Argument from Design

The universe is designed with such exactness and precision that it could not have just randomly happened by chance. [Let us consider an analogy from Physics expert Robin Collins PHD: Imagine a ruler, or one of those old fashioned linear radio dials, that goes all the way across the universe. It would be broken down into one-inch increments, which means there would be billions upon billions upon billions of inches. The entire dial represents the range of force strengths in nature, with gravity being the weakest force and the strong nuclear force that binds protons and neutrons together being the strongest, ten thousand billion billion billion billion times stronger than gravity. Now let's imagine you want to move the dial from where it is currently set. Even if you were to move it only one inch, the impact on life would be catastrophic. That small adjustment of the dial would increase gravity by a billion-fold. Animals anywhere the size of human beings would be crushed. As you can see, compared to the total range of force strengths in nature, gravity has an incomprehensibly narrow range for life to exist. Of all the possible settings on the dial, from one side of the universe to the other, it happens to be situated in the exact right fraction of an inch to make our universe capable of sustaining life.] -1

There is an astronomical term called the cosmological constant which was first introduced by Einstien and is now used to refer the energy density of empty space. This is a complex subject of physics that we will not try to explain in this class. Yet, we can look at the exactness of the fine tuning of this mathematical figure in relation to the universe. This constant has to be set with exactness in order for the universe to even exist. [According to Robin Collins PHD : The fine tuning (of the cosmological constant) has conservatively been estimated to be at least one part in a hundred million billion billion billion billion billion. That would be a ten followed by fifty-three zeroes. That is inconceivably precise.] - 1

There are also other variables in the universe that require an exactness of precision for the very existence of the universe itself. [For example, Oxford physicist Roger Penrose said one parameter, --€~ the original space volume', required fine tuning to an accuracy of one part in ten billion multiplied by itself one hundred and twenty-three times. Penrose remarked that it would be impossible to even write down that number in full, since it would require more zeroes than the number of elementary particles in the entire universe! This showed, he said, --€~ the precision needed to set the universe on its course.'] - 1

We could go on and on with examples within the universe that require exact accuracy of design for there even to be a universe in existence. [For instance, there's the difference in mass between neutrons and protons. Increase the mass of the neutron by about one part in seven hundred and nuclear fusion in stars would stop. There would be no energy source for life. And if the electromagnetic force were slightly stronger or weaker, life in the universe would be impossible. Or consider the strong nuclear force. Imagine decreasing it by fifty percent, which is tiny- one part in ten billion billion billion billion, compared to the total range of force strengths. Since like charges repel, the strong

nuclear force would be too weak to prevent the repulsive force between the positively charged protons in atomic nuclei from tearing apart all atoms except hydrogen. -- Robin Collins PHD.] - 1 Obviously without atoms which are the building blocks of all substance there would be nothing in existence.

This design is too precise to have happened by chance, the only logical explanation for such precision design is that there was a designer.

It is impossible to have a design without a designer. God is the designer of all of nature. The vast design is too accurate to be the result of coincidence or randomness as the result of a big bang as some scientists claim. For example, if the earth tilted one degree either way on its axis earth would not be inhabitable. This is not to mention that earth is the precise distance from the sun and placed in the exact location within the Milky Way Galaxy within which earth is located to support life on our planet .

The snowflake is another example of God's design. No two snowflakes are the same, yet they are all similar in design and symmetry. Snowflakes are composed of equilateral triangles, again pointing to the Trinity. There are so many areas of exact design in nature; the only logical conclusion is there must be a designer.

Argument from man's nature

Man is created in the image and likeness of God. Man was created with a conscience which is the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. The conscience within a man will let him know if he has done wrong. These are moral laws and the fact that there are laws requires a lawgiver. God is that lawgiver.

Argument from History.

And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: -- Dan. 2:21

God is on the throne and He rules in the affairs of men.

God created man a free moral agent with a will to make his own choices. God still reserves the right as the supreme ruler of all to see His will accomplished in earth and in heaven. This truth is revealed to us throughout Scripture; Jesus prayed to the Father: "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" -- Mt. 6:10. The will of God is going to be accomplished; no man can fight the will of God and win. Nebuchadnezzar lifted himself up in pride and was removed by God from his kingdom for seven years. -- Daniel 4:32. God is on the throne and He rules in the affairs of men.

The providence of God.

Webster's dictionary defines providence as: the act of providing or preparing for future use or application. God intervenes in the affairs of men. God knows the end from the beginning. He prepares the way for His Divine will to be accomplished.

Some examples of God's providence:

The Spanish armada was destroyed by a storm in 1588. The ships were on route to attack the Protestant country of England. Spain would have fought Christianity and promoted Catholicism. God protected His people in England and preserved the people who would one day settle America.

The account of Squanto and the pilgrims is again the providence of God to help the pilgrims survive the harsh Plymouth weather. What are the chances of an Indian who speaks fluent English greeting the Pilgrims in the year 1620?

The American Revolution was nothing short of a miracle. Time and time again God helped George Washington who was a man of prayer. Early in the war the only thing that saved the young American army from defeat was a heavy fog that enabled them to safely retreat from the English army.

The civil war is another example of the providence of God. God raised up men like Abraham Lincoln, another man of prayer, to preserve The Union. The beginning of the Civil war did not go well for the Union army. It was not the will of God for the Union to be destroyed. God preserved the country and abolished the wicked practice of slavery in the process.

God orders the kingdoms of men. -- Dan. 2

The progression of empires from Babylon to Rome is foretold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream contained in Dan. 2. Even the fact that the third kingdom would bear rule over all the earth is told in this chapter. God ordained that the Grecian empire led by Alexander the Great would conquer the world and thus spread the Greek language to prepare the way for the N.T. This event was foretold 500 years before it happened. This can only be explained by the intervention of God in the affairs of men.

Argument from universal belief

Man was created with an inherent desire to worship God. Even primitive peoples around the world have some form of worship and belief.

The Nature of God

Definition of God

Who and what is God?

"God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." -- Westminster Catechism

"God is the infinite and perfect Spirit in whom all things have their source, support and end." -- Strong

Scriptural descriptions of God.

God is Spirit -- John 4:24

God is light -- I John 1:5

God is love -- I John 4:16

God is a consuming fire -- Deut. 4:24, Heb. 12:29

Names of God

God reveals Himself by His names.

"The principal names of God are nine, falling into three classes of three names each which indicates the Trinity."

Three primary names of God

1. Elohim -- God

El -- strength or strong one

"Alah -- verb from which Elohim comes from means, to bind oneself by an oath"

The creation name of God

A plural noun

Used with the singular verb bara (create in Gen. 1:1.

Signifying the Trinity of God

2. Jehovah -- LORD

Comes from havah v. to be

The I AM

The Self Existent one

The Covenant keeping name of God

Jehovah-jireh -- (the LORD will provide) Gen. 22:14
Jehovah-rapha -- (the LORD that healeth) Ex. 15:26
Jehovah-nissi -- (the LORD our banner) Ex. 17:8-15
Jehovah-shalom -- (the LORD our peace) Judges 6:24
Jehovah-ra'ah -- (the LORD my shepherd) Ps. 23:1
Jehovah-tsidkenu -- (the LORD our righteousness) Jer. 23:6
Jehovah-shammah -- (the LORD is ther) Ezk. 48:35

3. Adonai -- Lord

"Lord or master -- Gen. 15:2, Ex. 23:17"

Conveys the idea of rulership and dominion

Three names compounded with El (The Strong One)

1. El Shaddai -- Almighty God -- Gen. 17:1; Ex. 6:3

The God who is sufficient

Shad -- breast

Used in Scripture for a woman's breast -- Gen. 49:25

God is the nourisher, the satisfier (the contented babe)

2. El Elyon -- Most High God -- Gen. 14:18-22

3. El Olam -- Everlasting God -- Gen. 21:33

Three names compounded with Jehovah

1. Jehovah Elohim -- LORD God -- Gen. 2:4

Shows God's relationship to man

As creator -- Gen. 2:7-15

" As Master -- Gen. 2:16,17"

As Ruler -- Gen. 2:18-24

" As Redeemer -- Gen. 3:8-15,21"

Shows God's relationship to Israel --

"Gen. 24:7, Ex. 3:15, Deut. 12:1"

2. Adonai Jehovah - Lord LORD (Lord God -- KJV)

"Emphasizes Jehovah is Master -- Gen. 15:1,2,"

"Deut. 3:24, 9:26, Joshua 7:7"

3. "Jehovah Sabaoth -- LORD of Hosts -- I Sam. 1:3, Ps. 24:10, 46:7,11"

Occurs with special reference to warfare

Used of Jehovah Manifesting His power and glory

Occurs in the crises of Israel's need

Hosts primarily refers to angels

The idea of all Heavenly power as available for the needs of God's people

Erroneous Views of God

"By seeing what He is not, we shall be helped to a better understanding of who He is."

Agnosticism -- from two Greek words meaning not Knowing

Denies the human ability to know God

From the same etymology as ignoramus

The agnostic declares the finite can not grasp the infinite

Refutation to this view

We can know of God without comprehending Him

The Scriptures declare that God is knowable

" And I will give them a heart to know me, that I Am the LORD:"Jer. 23:254

the people that do know their "God shall be strong, and do exploits. -- Dan. 11:32"

Polytheism -- the worship of many gods

Characteristic of ancient religions

Still practiced today in heathen lands

Hinduism

New age cults

Based on the idea that the universe is governed by many forces

God of water

God of fire

God of other forces of nature

Worshipped the creature more than the creator -- Rom. 1:25

Refutation to this view

Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. -- Ex. 20:3

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. -- Jn. 4:10

And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent -- Jn. 17:3

" Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is "one LORD: -- Deut. 6:4

God is One

Three persons within One God

Monotheism -- the worship of One God

Pantheism -- all is god

The earth is all part of god

"Trees, birds and all the animals"

Man is also god

According to the pantheist god lives and expresses himself through nature

Refutation to this view

Pantheism confounds God with nature

The poem is not the poet

The creature is not The Creator Rom. 180:199-23

Materialism -- matter is the cause of all life and mind(Big bang theory)

Denies any distinction between mind and matter

Man is simply an animal

Evolution

Humanism

Refutation to this view

Life only comes from existing life

No instance has ever been demonstrated of life coming from dead matter

God is the creator of all life

**"Deism -- admits there is a personal God, who created
"the world; then left it to be governed by natural law**

A wound clock left to run on its own

Leaves no room for Divine intervention

No miracle is possible

Refutation to this view

Scriptural testimony of Divine intervention

Historical record of God's providence

**Dualism -- there are two opposing forces of good and
evil**

Portrayed as good angel verses bad angel

Refutation to this view

God is more than an impersonal force

Satan's kingdom has been defeated

Essence of God

Meaning of ESSENCE: The core substance of anything; the ultimate nature of something; the crucial element; the inherent, unchanging nature of a thing or a class of things.

Who and what is God?,

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. -- Westminster Catechism

God is the infinite and perfect Spirit in whom all things have their source, support and end.-- James Strong

Some of the major descriptions of God in the Scripture are: a SPIRIT (John 4:24), LIGHT (I John 1:5), LOVE (I John 4:16) and FIRE (Deut. 4:24, Heb. 12:29).

God is Spirit

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.- John 4:24

God is not Material

Without material form or substance

Does not have the limitations of a physical body

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. -- Luke 24:37

Anthropomorphic Representations of God

Anthropomorphic means having to do with human beings. Man is only capable of expressing God in human terms. When we try to bring the infinite within the apprehension of the finite, we cannot perfectly describe the infinite.

Scriptural examples of God represented with body parts

Hands -- Is. 65:2, Heb. 1:3

Feet -- Gen. 3: 8, Ps. 8:6

Eyes -- I Kings 8:29, II Chron. 16:9

Ears -- Neh. 1:6, Ps. 34:15

Fingers -- Ps. 8:3

Flesh and Blood -- Luke 24:39

Compare to Gen. 1:14, Heb. 11:3

God is Invisible (to Natural Man)

No man can see god and live

And He said, thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me and live. -- Ex. 33:20

No man hath seen God at any time

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him. -- John 1:18 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. -- I Tim. 6:16

The invisible God

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: -- Col. 1:15

God is Alive

"And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the "

"living God is among you,... -- Joshua 3:10"

...for who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God? -- I Sam. 17:26 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. -- Mt. 16:16 "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; -- I Thes. 1:9"

The idols of the heathen are dead

"Life implies feeling, power and activity"

God is the source of all life

God is a Person

Characteristics of personality

Intellect -- Knowledge

"Gen. 18:19, Ex. 3:7, Acts 15:18"

Sensibility -- Feeling

"Gen. 6:6, Ps. 103: 8:13, John 3:16"

Volition -- Will

"Gen. 3:15, Ps. 115:3, John 6:38"

Qualities of personality

Speaking -- Gen. 1:3

Seeing -- Gen. 11:5

Hearing -- Ps. 94:9

Being angry -- Deut. 1:37

Jealous -- Ex. 20:5

Compassionate -- Ps. 114:4

God is Infinite

"Without boundaries, limitless, immeasurably" great or large

The Immensity of God

He contains space; He is not contained by -it

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? -- I Kings 8:27 "But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him? -- II Chron. 2:6" Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORDo not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LOR-- Jer. 23:24

God is everywhere present Ps. 139: 7-10

The eternity of God

Without beginning or ending

And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God. -- Gen. 21:33 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. -- Ps. 90:2 "But Thou art the same, and Thy years have no end. -- Ps. 102:7"

God is the cause of time

God is Self-Existent

God has the ground of His existence in

Himself

Man's ground of existence is outside himself

God is not dependent upon anything outside of Himself for His existence

God has life in Himself

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. -- Ex. 3:14

For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; John 1:1

God not only exists from eternity, but also exists from Himself. --Dr. R.A. Torrey

He is the first Cause, Himself uncaused. -- Thomas Aquinas

Exodus 3:14 Exodus 6:3 John 5:26 Acts 17:24-28

The Non-Moral Attributes of God

Explanation of "Non-Moral Attributes"

Attributes

The qualities that belong to the substance and constitute a description of it. A description of the nature or qualities of a person

"For example, God says of Himself, 'I am holy'; therefore we can say, God is holy. Holiness, then is an attribute of God, because holiness is a quality that we may attribute or apply to Him. -- Doctrine Book "

Non-moral

Non-moral attributes are those truths of the Divine essence that do not involve moral qualities. It is an inherent quality without regard to right or wrong. Non-moral is not the same as "un-moral" or "immoral".

Omnipresence

The Divine presence in relation to His creatures (Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28)

Psalm 139:7-12 -- Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

God is present to His creatures

In glory -- Is.6:3

"In nature -- Nahum 1:3, Ps. 68:8-9"

" In providence -- Ps. 68:5-7, Dan. 2:20-23"

In unified saints -- Mt. 18: 19-20

In the conscience of men -- Gen. 3:8

In the church -- Eph. 2:22

With His workers -- Mt. 28:19-20

Omniscience

God's perfect and eternal knowledge of all things

"Knowledge of past, present and future"

God knows the best means to attain the desired results

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. -- He4:

Omnipotence

God is all powerful

His ability to do whatever He wills

God is sovereign

"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? -- Dan. 4:35 "

Immutable

"God's unchangeableness in essence, attributes,"

"consciousness, and will"

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. -- Mal. 3:6" "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. -- James 1:17" "They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. -- Ps. 102:26-27"

God is perfect

He can not change for the better

Nor can He change for the worse

Moral Attributes of God

Moral is a quality having to do with right and wrong. All moral attributes are phenomena of the will. In relation to God it is that which manifests right.

God is Holy

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. -- Is. 6:3 "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; " "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. I Pet. 1 15-16"

The holiness of God means His absolute moral purity; He can neither sin nor tolerate sin. (Doctrine Book)

Separated or sanctified

From sin

Set apart from man

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? -- Rom. 11:33-34 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? -- Ex. 15:11

God is Righteous

What is the difference between Holiness and righteousness?

Righteousness is Holiness in action

Righteousness is God's Holiness manifested in right dealing with His creatures

Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? -- Gen. 18:25

Righteousness is the character or quality of being right or just; - Vines

Right action or simply put acting right

Always does the right thing

God is Faithful

Faithful -- To be trusted, reliable, to keep one's word

God is absolutely trustworthy

God's Word will not fail

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. -- Is. 55:11;

God's Promises are Sure

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. -- II Cor. 1:20

God is Merciful

Mercy is the outward manifestation of pity

Compassion for the ills of others

Divine goodness exercised to sinful man

God is rich in mercy

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, -- Eph. 2:4

Man is saved because of The Mercy of God

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; -- Titus 3:5

God is Love

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. -- I John 4:8

Love is affection and tenderness shown to another

The desire for fellowship

God's love is unconditional

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. -- Rom. 5:8

God's love is inseparable

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. -- Rom. 8:38-39

God is Good

Goodness is uprightness and purity

God imparts life and blessings to His creatures

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

Christology is the study of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word messiah and means anointed one. Jesus is the long awaited for messiah who came according to prophecy.

I. The Divinity of Christ.

A. Jesus is God.

John 1:1 -- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Isaiah:9:6 -- For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

This is a prophecy of Christ who is called the mighty God. There is only one mighty God; Jesus is THE MIGHTY GOD.

B. Jesus is not a lesser God than the Father.

Phillipians 2:5-6 -- Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Jesus is God and is equal with God the Father. This subject will be covered in greater detail in the section: The Trinity of God.

C. The devil has attacked the truth of the Deity of Christ.

- 1) Deity -- God; the Supreme Being. or infinite self-existing Spirit. - Webster
- 2) A common denominator of the cults is to deny the Deity of Christ.
 - a) Mormons teach Jesus is not God.
 - b) Jehovah's Witnesses teach Jesus is a lesser god than the Father.
 - c) Muslims deny that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - d) Other cults teach Jesus was just a prophet or great teacher.
- 3) The devil knows if he can get man to doubt the Deity of Christ then the foundation of their faith is destroyed. If Jesus is not God then He is a liar and the Bible is not true.

II. The eternal existence of Christ.

A. Jesus is not a created being.

B. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega.

Revelation 1:7-8 -- Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

This Scripture tells us that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last signifying that Jesus is the first and the last. Jesus is the one who was pierced and is coming with the clouds. Jesus is the Lord which is, and which was, and which is to come. The context of the Scripture clearly reveals that Jesus is the one speaking and declaring that He is the Alpha and Omega.

C. Jesus is everlasting.

Micah 5:2 -- But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

III. The Humanity of Christ.

A. Jesus came in the flesh.

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. -- John 1:14

According to the law of the kinsman redeemer only the next of kin could pay the price of redemption. Jesus the everlasting Word became a man to fulfill the part of the kinsman redeemer and pay the price for fallen humanity with His Divine blood upon the cross.

Ephesians 1:7 -- In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

B. Jesus was born as a babe of the virgin Mary.

Matthew 1:18: - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Mary was the chosen vessel to birth the Christ, but that which was conceived within her was not of man, but of the Holy Ghost. The blood of Jesus is Divine and not tainted by the sin of fallen humanity.

C. Jesus was all man and all God at the same time.

Colossians 2:9 -- For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

The wood overlaid with gold in the furniture of the Tabernacle typifies this dual nature of Christ. Wood is a type of humanity while Gold typifies the Divine nature of God. As a man Jesus limited Himself to a human body to be in one location at one time, yet within Him was the fullness of God. The humanity of Christ became tired and hungry and needed to rest as do all men. Jesus was our supreme example of prayer and desired fellowship with the Father. He would often arise early to pray and commune with the Father.

Hebrews 4:15 -- For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

THE PRE INCARNATE CHRIST

The incarnation refers to Christ taking on the form of a man.

Phillipians 2:7 -8 -- But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

I. Christ existed before He became flesh.

A. Christ was not known by the name Jesus until His birth in Bethlehem.

Matthew 1:21 -- And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

B. In the beginning was the Word. The Word of God reveals to us that Christ always was and existed in the beginning with God. -- John 1:1

C. Jesus had glory with the Father before the world was created.

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.

John 8:58 -- Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

II. Old Testament appearances of Christ.

John 1:18 -- No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

According to the context of this Scripture no man hath seen God the Father at any time. This would include the time period of the Old Testament. The Father reveals Himself to humanity through the Son in both Old Testament and New Testament times. Even though in the Old Testament Christ had not yet been manifested in the flesh, He still existed with the Father and appears in the Old Testament to humanity as God. And since we know from Scripture that no man hath seen God the Father at any time these Old Testament appearances of God could only have been Christ who is the eternal declaration of the Father.

A. Captain of the host of the LORD.

Joshua 5: 14-15 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his

sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

This was Holy ground because the Christ who is God was standing on it.

B. The Angel of the Lord.

Throughout the Old Testament the Angel of the Lord is ascribed the attributes of Deity.

Genesis 16:10 -- And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

Genesis 22:11 -- And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 22:15-17 -- And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Genesis 31:11 -- And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.

Genesis 31:13 -- I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

Exodus 3:2 -- And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

Numbers 22:35 -- And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Judges 2:1 - And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.

Judges 6:12 - And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

C. The man who wrestled with Jacob.

Genesis 32:24 -- And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

D. JEHOVAH appeared to Abraham

Gen 18:1 -- And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

Jehovah God appears to Abraham as described in this passage of Scripture. We understand from John 1:18 that Abraham could not have seen God the Father. The only logical conclusion is that Abraham met with the Christ who is man's declaration of God in both the Old and New Testaments.

E. The fourth man in the fire.

Daniel 3:25 -- He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

F. Melchisedec

Hebrews 7:1-3 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Names, Offices, and Attributes of Christ

I. The Names of Christ

A. Jesus

Jesus is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name "Joshua" which means "Jehovah is salvation". Some try to erroneously claim that since Jesus is a Greek rendition of a Hebrew name that it is not the true name of the Christ. The devil hates the name of Jesus. There has been much personal testimony of the power of the name of Jesus to heal the sick, raise the dead and to cast out devils. This writer has seen the demons flee at the name of Jesus spoken in English, Spanish, and Swahili; the demons know the power of the name of Jesus.

Mark 16:17 -- And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Philippians 2:10 -- That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Acts 4:10 -- Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Acts 4:12 -- Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

B. The Word

The Apostle John particularly uses the Word in reference to Christ who is the eternal living Word of God. Jesus not only spoke the Word; He is the Word that was made flesh, ascended to heaven, is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, and is coming back in power.

Revelation 19:13 -- And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

C. Son of God

The use of the Son of God refers to the Divine nature of Christ. Joseph was not the father of Jesus: the Scripture tells us plainly that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Ghost. The living eternal word took upon Him the form of man that He might redeem man. Remember that Jesus existed before He was born of the virgin Mary; Nebuchadnezzar declared the form fourth man in the fire is like the Son of God.

Peter received a revelation from the Father of who Jesus is.

Matthew 16:16 -- And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

D. Son of Man

This refers to the humanity of Christ. Jesus was God manifested in the flesh.

E. Son of David

This has reference to the royalty of Christ as King and rightful heir to the throne of David. Jesus is a direct descendent of King David as listed in the genealogies of both Matthew and Luke. The accounts follow from the line of Joseph who was not the natural father, but would have been the legal line of succession to the throne. The prophets declared the messiah would come from the lineage of David and the throne of David would be established forever.

Isaiah 11:1 -- And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2Samuel 7:16 -- And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

F. Lord

The Greek word Kurios rendered Lord is used to refer to a lord ruler or master. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

G. Christ

Christ is the Greek from of the Hebrew Word "Messiah" which literally means the anointed one. Jesus is the Messiah.

II. The Offices of Christ

A. Prophet

Jesus not only spoke for God as a prophet; He spoke as God thus completely fulfilling the office of a prophet.

B. Priest

Jesus offered Himself as the supreme sacrifice for our sin, and ever lives to make intercession for the saints of God. He is our great high priest.

Hebrews 7:25 -- Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:14 -- How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

C. King

Jesus was the legal heir to the throne of David and is seated now on the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus is the King of kings.

III. The Attributes of Christ

Jesus is God and has the same moral and non moral attributes as God the Father. Christ the man limited Himself to a human body while He was on the earth, but the resurrected, exalted Christ must have the same attributes as God the Father. Anything less would make Jesus less than God. The glorified Christ is not limited to a physical body. Jesus must be omnipresent like the Father and the Holy Ghost. Jesus said that He would be in the midst of the saints that are gathered together in His name.

Matthew 18:20 – For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

I. The ministry of Christ

A. Jesus had compassion on the sick and healed all that came unto Him.

Act 10:38 – How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

B. Teaching and preaching the Word of God.

Matthew 4:23 – And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

C. Bringing deliverance to the captives.

Luke 4:18 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Matthew 8:16 – When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

II. The redemptive work of Christ

The most important work of Christ was to purchase redemption for man through His death upon the cross. The Word became flesh for the purpose of dying for lost humanity.

A. The death of Christ

1) Satisfied the penalty of sin according to the Law of God.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:3 – For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

- 2) Appeased the judgment of God through the sacrifice of the Divine blood of the Lamb of God.

Romans 3:25 – Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

The Greek word here rendered propitiation refers to the Mercy seat. The Mercy seat is the place where the High priest sprinkled the blood of a lamb on the Day of Atonement to satisfy the wrath of God against the sins of the people. Jesus became our Mercy seat when He offered Himself as the pure spotless Lamb of God and shedding His blood as the supreme sacrifice for the sin of humanity.

- 3) Defeated the power of death.

Matthew 12:40 – For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Hebrews 2:14 – Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Jesus went into the region of the dead to defeat death. Death could not hold the Son of God. Jesus defeated the devil that had the power of death. Jesus stripped the devil of his power and authority and took the keys of death away from the devil.

Revelation 1:18 – I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

B. The resurrection of Christ

The resurrection of Christ is the event that separates Jesus from other religious leaders and false messiahs. Buddah, Mohamed, Sun Myung Moon and other false messiahs are in the grave. There is an empty tomb in Jerusalem where Jesus lay for three days, but when the three days were fulfilled Christ arose victorious over death, hell and the grave.

III. The continued intercession of Christ

Romans 8:34 – Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Jesus ascended back to heaven and is at the right hand of the Father who ever lives to make intercession for us. The Scripture tells us that Jesus our Great High Priest is still interceding for us in heaven.

The Old Testament high priest interceded for the people on the Day of Atonement sprinkling the blood of a lamb on the Mercy Seat for the sins of the people. Jesus offered Himself once shedding His Divine blood for the sins of humanity. The blood of Jesus still has the power to make the vilest sinner clean. The Father views the justified saint through the redemptive work of Christ. Jesus is still our Great High Priest.

Hebrews 7:25 – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

The study of the Holy Ghost is referred to as pneumatology. Pneuma is the Greek word for spirit and ology is the study of a particular subject. The English words spirit and ghost are renderings of the Greek word "pneuma". The King James translators used both of these words to translate the one Greek word pneuma which literally means wind or breath. The gifts of the Spirit have already been covered in Doctrine 2 so they will not be discussed again in this course.

The Person of the Holy Ghost

I. The Holy Ghost is referred to as third person of the Trinity.

- A. The Holy Ghost is not third in power or position.
- B. The Holy Ghost is equal with The Father and The Son.

II. The Holy Ghost possesses the attributes of personality.

- A. The Holy Ghost is described as having a mind.

Romans 8:27 -- And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- B. The Holy Ghost has a will.

I Corinthians 12:11 -- But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Ghost, dividing to every man severally as he will.

This does not mean that the will of the Holy Ghost is not in perfect harmony with the wills of the Father and the Son.

- C. The Holy Ghost can be grieved.

Ephesians 4:30 -- And grieve not the Holy Ghost of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

III. The Holy Ghost has personal activities ascribed to him.

- A. The Holy Ghost reveals truth.

II Peter 1:21 -- For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

B. The Holy Ghost is a teacher.

John 14:26 -- But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

C. The Holy Ghost bears witness.

Romans 8:16 -- The Ghost itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

D. The Holy Ghost intercedes for the saints of God.

Romans 8:26 -- Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The King James translators rendered the Greek word *autos* as the neutral pronoun *itself* possibly to convey the thought of the gender neutrality of a spirit. We must understand the Holy Ghost is a person and not an *it*.

E. The Holy Ghost speaks.

Revelation 2:7 -- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

F. The Holy Ghost commands.

Acts 6:16 -- Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

G. The Holy Ghost testifies.

John 15:26 -- But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

The Ministry and Work of the Holy Ghost

I. The Holy Ghost will always exalt Jesus.

John 16:13-14 -- Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

A. He shall not speak of Himself.

The Holy Ghost does not exalt Himself. He will always exalt Jesus. The error of the false charismatic churches is their exaltation of the Spirit. The spirit that they operate in is not the true Holy Ghost.

John 15:26 -- But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

B. He will not glorify man.

The Holy Ghost does not exalt man. The Holy Ghost will use a man to glorify Jesus.

II. The Holy Ghost will show you things to come.

John 16:13 -- Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

A. The Holy Ghost speaks through prophecy.

B. The Holy Ghost will reveal future events.

C. The Holy Ghost will show what is to come through an understanding of the Word.

III. The Holy Ghost will give power to minister.

Acts 1:8 -- But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth⁴⁵

A. He will anoint a man to preach the Gospel.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 -- For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

1 Corinthians 2:4 -- And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

B. He will minister to the congregation during the preaching.

IV. The Holy Ghost will lead men to the truth.

A. He will help you to understand the Word.

B. He will draw men to the truth.

V. The Holy Ghost is the comforter.

John 14:26 -- But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

VI. The Holy Ghost will help you to pray.

A. The Holy Ghost will empower and help you to pray. There is praying in tongues in the Holy Ghost, but there is also praying in one's own language in the power of the Holy Ghost.

Jude 20 -- But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

B. Praying through the saints.

Romans 8:26-27 -- Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

VII. The Holy Ghost will lead you into the will of God.

Rom. 8:14 -- For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Matthew 4:1 -- Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

A. He will give you direction for ministry. -- Acts 8:29, Acts 10:19-20

B. He will keep you from doing your own will. -- Acts 16:6-7

VIII. The conviction of the Holy Ghost.

A. The Holy Ghost will convict men of their sin.

John 16: 7-8 -- Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

1. The word for reprove here has the meaning of convincing and convicting.

2. The Word alone without the power of the Holy Ghost will not produce conviction of sin.

B. Man cannot produce conviction of sin.

IX. The Holy Ghost is Active in Salvation

A. Born of the Spirit.

John 3:5-7 -- Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1. Salvation is a work of the Spirit of God.

2. There is a difference between being born of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit.

B. The Holy Ghost is at work in Sanctification.

Romans 15:16 -- That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

1. Sanctification is a part of Salvation.
 2. There is not true salvation without a work of sanctification.
- C. The power of the Holy Ghost helps the saint to stay saved.
1. The Holy Ghost gives the saint power over sin.
 2. The Holy Ghost will keep us from the world.

1 Peter 1:5 -- Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.