



The Truth Project Study Aid
Harbor of Grace Church Winter 2021

Week Four Study Aid – Theology (Who is God?)

If God really does exist, is there a more important question than “Who is God?” We have seen so far in our journey that truth is an important concept that provides a foundation for understanding reality. We also saw that God is Himself the foundation of all truth and the one in whom reality is based. From the idea that there is a thing called truth, we know that there is a battle between the truths of God and the lies of Satan. This battle is for our minds and our culture. It impacts the way we do philosophy, searching for the answers to life’s biggest questions. It impacts our view of man, and it certainly impacts our view of God, in whose image man was made. As the famous Christian apologist William Lane Craig noted, “If God does not exist, then both man and the universe are inevitably doomed to death” – *On Guard: Defending Your Faith With Reason and Precision*, 2010. P31.

If we are going to answer the question “Who is God?” we must have a source for knowing Him. God has given us two ways in which we can know Him. The first is the created world which displays His intelligence and absolute power and greatness. The second is His Word. We call this “special revelation,” because God has revealed Himself to man in a special way through His Word. We know that God is a loving and merciful God who saves sinners. We know this not from nature, but from Scripture. We know redemption not from looking at the sun, but looking to His Son, who is in very nature God, and truly the second Adam come to save man from their sins.

Is it any wonder that there have been such attacks on belief in God’s existence and the reliability of His Word? But praise God that His Word is true, reliable and authoritative, the only rule for our faith and practice. Through God’s Word we know God. While we do have personal encounters with God, God never reveals Himself to us personally in ways that either add to or contradict Scripture. We must always interpret and ground our feelings and beliefs about God through and in Scripture. On that note I wanted to share just a couple of encouraging facts that are intended to build your confidence in God’s Word as a reliable source that informs our knowledge of God and our Christian practice.

We Can Have Confidence in Scripture

- *We have thousands of manuscripts to compare, many of them are very early. There is no significant difference between the oldest and latest manuscripts. This means that we can have confidence that the words we read in our Bibles today reflect what was communicated in the original autographs.*
- *The Bible is internally consistent even when there is tension (James/Paul). This is incredible considering it was written by 40 different authors over 1,500 hundred years. These authors spoke different languages and came from diverse backgrounds: from fishermen and shepherds to kings and scholars.*
- *There is a whole field of scholarship devoted to identifying and understanding textural variations. Textural variants usually include minor differences in grammar and numerical values, never anything doctrinally significant.*

I pray that we see God’s Word as inspired, inerrant, infallible, plenary, and verbal. Your homework is looking up those words this week and prayerfully considering whether or not our lives reflect our belief that God’s Word is authoritative over our lives. To give a nod to Francis Schaffer: God is there, and He has not been silent.

-Pastor Rob Lewis