

The Doctrine of God

I. Two Starting Presuppositions

- A. The existence of God
- B. The revelation of God
 - 1) Generally through creation and conscience
 - 2) Chiefly in Jesus Christ and the written Word

II. The Knowability of God

- A. A great paradox of Christianity
 - 1) God is incomprehensible (Isaiah 40:18, 25)
 - 2) God can be known, and knowledge of him is necessary for salvation (John 17:3; 1 John 5:20)
 - 3) Thus we affirm that God can be known, but not in a perfect and exhaustive way (1 Corinthians 13:12)
 - a) *Deus Absconditus* (hidden God)
 - b) *Deus Revelatus* (revealed God)
 - c) We must maintain a proper balance between God's transcendence and his immanence
- B. Self-revelation is a prerequisite to the knowledge of God
 - 1) General revelation (Psalm 19:1-2; Acts 14:17; Rom. 1:19-20)
 - 2) Special revelation (John 1:18; Hebrews 1:1-2)

III. The Names of God

- A. The names of God in general
 - 1) The *name* of God in the singular
 - a) Ex. 20:7; Ps. 8:1; Prov. 18:10
 - b) Stands for the whole manifestation of God to his people
 - 2) The many names of God
 - a) The names of God are not of human invention, but of divine origin
 - b) They are, in themselves, acts of revelation
- B. The Old Testament names
 - 1) *El, Elohim, Elyon*
 - 2) *Adonai*
 - 3) *Shaddai* and *El-Shaddai*
 - 4) *Yahweh* and *Yahweh Tsebhaoth*
- C. The New Testament names
 - 1) *Theos*
 - 2) *Kurios*
 - 3) *Pater*

IV. The Attributes of God

A. Incommunicable attributes

- 1) Self-existence or independence
- 2) Immutability
- 3) Infinity
 - a) Absolute perfection
 - b) Eternity
 - c) Immensity or omnipresence
- 4) Unity

B. Communicable attributes

- 1) Attributes describing God's being
 - a) Spirituality
 - b) Invisibility
- 2) Mental or intellectual attributes
 - a) Knowledge or omniscience
 - b) Wisdom
 - c) Truthfulness (and faithfulness)
- 3) Moral attributes
 - a) Goodness
 - b) Love
 - c) Mercy, grace, and longsuffering
 - d) Holiness
 - e) Peace (or order)
 - f) Righteousness (or justice)
 - g) Jealousy
 - h) Wrath
- 4) Attributes of purpose
 - a) Will
 - b) Freedom
 - c) Omnipotence
- 5) Summary attributes
 - a) Perfection
 - b) Blessedness
 - c) Beauty
 - d) Glory

V. The Works of God

- A. Creation
- B. Providence
- C. Redemption