

# **Bible for Life: *God and His Word***

## ***CLASS 1: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD***

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ – The study of God and His characteristics.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ – The study of God's Word, the Bible.

### **1.2 RESOURCES**

Charles Ryrie – *Basic Theology*; Wayne Grudem – *Systematic Theology*

J.I. Packer – *Knowing God*; John Feinberg – *No One Like Him*

### **1.3 THE EXISTENCE OF GOD – PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENTS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_ Argument – Anselm (late 1000s)

- Basic Argument: A perfect God must \_\_\_\_\_, because existence is an attribute of perfection.

Exodus 3:14 –

B) \_\_\_\_\_ Argument – Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, etc.

- Basic Argument: Everything has a cause, and God is the original \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 3:4 –

### **1.4 THE EXISTENCE OF GOD – BIBLICAL ARGUMENTS**

A. The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ God's existence (Gen 1:1)

B. The Bible assumes God's existence is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ to all people

Romans 1:18-21 –

1) What does this passage assume about God's existence?

a) Not all can be known about God without \_\_\_\_\_ revelation

b) \_\_\_\_\_ things can be known about God without special revelation

c) The things that can be known are \_\_\_\_\_ *known*

2) Why doesn't everyone just believe in God?

- a) Unbelievers willingly \_\_\_\_\_ the truth (vs 18)
- b) An unbeliever's heart is \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 21)

3) What is known about God?

- a) The \_\_\_\_\_ of God (vss 18, 20)
- b) His eternal \_\_\_\_\_ and divine \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 20)

4) How are these things revealed?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ – Vs 20; cf. Psalm 19
- b) \_\_\_\_\_  
Roman 2:14-16 –

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation is enough to condemn people to Hell.

\_\_\_\_\_ is still necessary for salvation.

D. \_\_\_\_\_ give definitive proof of God's existence.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 –

Isaiah 41:21-24 –

Isaiah 44:24-28 –

## 1.5 THE PERSISTENCE OF UNBELIEF

Hebrews 11:6 –

\_\_\_\_\_ fills in the gaps where evidence leaves us wanting.

2 Corinthians 4:4 –

Atheists are deceived by \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 10:4 –

Atheists are deceived by their own \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:20 –

## ***CLASS 2: THE CHARACTER OF GOD, PART I***

### **2.1 CAN WE KNOW GOD?**

A) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 11:33 –

Psalm 145:3 –

B) God is \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:3 –

John 14:7 –

C) We can know God because God has \_\_\_\_\_ to make Himself known

1 John 5:20 –

D) Theologians sometimes categorize God's character into two groups:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Attributes – those attributes that God shares with humans

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Attributes – those attributes that are only true of God

### **2.2 TEN CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD**

1) \_\_\_\_\_ – God can never die

1 Timothy 1:17 –

Romans 6:23 –

John 3:16 –

2) \_\_\_\_\_ – God always was and always will be

Psalm 90:2 –

3) \_\_\_\_\_ – God cannot be seen naturally

1 Timothy 1:17 –

4) \_\_\_\_\_ – God is not primarily a physical being

John 4:24 –

John 1:18 –

5) \_\_\_\_\_ – God knows all

Psalms 139:1-6 –

6) \_\_\_\_\_ – God is everywhere all at once

Psalms 139:7-10 –

7) \_\_\_\_\_ – God is all-powerful

Jeremiah 32:17 –

1 Timothy 2:13 –

8) \_\_\_\_\_ – God has no bounds

1 Kings 8:27 –

9) \_\_\_\_\_ – God does whatever He pleases

Psalms 115:3 –

Acts 17:24-25 –

10) \_\_\_\_\_ – God does not change

Psalms 102:25-27 –

James 1:17 –

Malachi 3:6a –

- *However*, the Bible affirms that God does change His \_\_\_\_\_ in response to our  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 38:1-5 –

Jonah 1:1-2; 3:4, 10 –

## ***CLASS 3: THE CHARACTER OF GOD, PART II***

- God is \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ of all that we say about Him! (Psalm 145:3)

### **3.1 IS GOD IMPASSIBLE?**

- Impassibility means God does not have \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 62:5 –

Psalm 78:40 –

Psalm 103:13 –

Conclusion: God is \_\_\_\_\_ impassible!

### **3.2 DOES GOD MAKE MISTAKES?**

Genesis 6:6 –

Exodus 32:14 –

Amos 7:3 –

1 Samuel 15:11, 29, 35 –

Conclusion: God does \_\_\_\_\_ make mistakes, but the Bible does use \_\_\_\_\_ language to express God's sorrow over sin or His response to repentance.

### **3.3 MORE CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD**

1) God is \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:16 –

1 John 3:16 –

2) God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 34:6-7 –

3) God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 11:7 –

Psalm 89:14 –

4) God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:5-6 –  
2 Peter 3:9 –  
Romans 2:4 –

5) God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 32:4 –  
1 John 5:20 –

6) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 11:33 –

7) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:11 –  
Psalm 99:1 –

8) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 34:14 –

9) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 27:4 –

10) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 6:3 –  
Revelation 21:23 –  
Hebrews 1:3a –

11) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5:48 –

12) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:68 –

13) God is \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 4:8 –  
Leviticus 19:2 –  
2 Corinthians 3:18 –

## ***CLASS 4: THE MANY NAMES OF GOD***

### **4.1 OLD TESTAMENT NAMES OF GOD**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 3:13-15 –

ESV Translation: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

- a) YHWH-Yireh: “YHWH will \_\_\_\_\_” (Gen 22:14)
- b) YHWH-Tsedkenu: “YHWH is our \_\_\_\_\_” (Jer 23:6)
- c) YHWH-Sabbaoth: “YHWH of \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Sam 1:3)

- Many other examples:

YHWH-Nissi: Yahweh is My Banner (Exod 17:15)

YHWH-Shalom: Yahweh is Peace (Judg 6:24)

YHWH-Shama: Yahweh is There (Ezek 48:35)

2) \_\_\_\_\_

ESV Translation: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Genesis 1:1 –

- a) El Shaddai: “God \_\_\_\_\_” (Gen 17:1)
- b) El Elyon: “God \_\_\_\_\_” (Gen 14:19)
- c) El Olam: “the \_\_\_\_\_ God” (Gen 21:33)

3) \_\_\_\_\_

ESV Translation: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Genesis 15:1-2 –

Psalms 136:3 –

Deuteronomy 10:17 –

**4.2 NEW TESTAMENT NAMES OF GOD**

4) \_\_\_\_\_

ESV Translation: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

1 Timothy 1:17 –

5) \_\_\_\_\_

ESV Translation: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Romans 10:9 –

6) \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 2:9-11 –

John 20:27-28 –

John 8:56-59 –

BONUS: 7) \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 16:16 –

- It means “The \_\_\_\_\_”



## ***CLASS 5: THE TRINITY***

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Nicene Creed (325 AD): “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty...

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God...

“And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and Son...”

### **5.2 THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY**

1. God is three \_\_\_\_\_ (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

Matthew 3:16-17 –

Matthew 28:19 –

- See also: 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Jude 20-21

2. Each person is fully \_\_\_\_\_

A. God the Father

Eph 4:6 –

B. God the Son

John 1:1-4 –

- See also: John 8:58; 10:30; 20:27-29; Heb 1:8

C. God the Holy Spirit

Acts 5:3-4 –

- See also: Matt 28:19; John 14:16; 1 Cor 6:19

3. There is \_\_\_\_\_ God

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 –

James 2:19 –

- See also: Isaiah 45:5-6; 46:9

Ryrie's Chart (Basic Theology, 63):



### 5.3 SOME FAULTY THINKING

#1 – Father, Son, Holy Spirit are just three different \_\_\_\_\_ for God (Modalism)

(denies first statement – yet three separate persons are clear – Mt 3:16-17)

#2 – Jesus/Holy Spirit are \_\_\_\_\_ God (Arianism/Jehovah's Witnesses)

(denies second statement – Yet we saw that Jesus is God – Jn 1:1)

#3 – There are \_\_\_\_\_ gods (Tritheism)

(denies third statement – Yet God is one – Dt 6:4)

#### 5.4 WHAT ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH WE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS?

1. By \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Egg – shell, yolk, egg whites
- B. H<sub>2</sub>O – liquid, vapor, solid
- C. Ryrie’s Chart, pg. 63 (see above)

2. All analogies fall short in some way. We therefore must take God at His Word!

#### 5.5 DIFFERENTIATING MEMBERS OF THE TRINITY

1. Each has a different way of relating to \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 1:3-14 –

1 Peter 1:2 –

2. Each has a different way of relating to \_\_\_\_\_

- The Father sent His Son (John 3:16; Rom 8:32)
- Christ the Son came in obedience to the Father (Matt 26:39; Rom 5:19)
- The Holy Spirit points to and magnifies the Son (John 15:26; 16:13-14)

#### 5.6 PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. The matter of our \_\_\_\_\_

- God the Father: foreknew us
- God the Son: died for us
- God the Holy Spirit: sanctifies us

1 Peter 1:2 –

2. The matter of \_\_\_\_\_

- God the Father: we pray to Him
- God the Son: we pray in His name on the basis of His work
- God the Holy Spirit: intercedes and “helps” our prayer

Matthew 6:9 –

John 16:23-24 –

Romans 8:26-27 –

## ***CLASS 6: THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE***

### **6.1 RESOURCES**

- ~ *From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible* (Normal L. Geisler & William E. Nix)
- ~ *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*  
(Paul D. Wegner)
- ~ *Light in a Dark Place: The Doctrine of Scripture* (John S. Feinberg)

### **6.2 DEFINITIONS**

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_: The inspired “book” of the Christian faith.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture: The authoritative list of books belonging in the Bible.

### **6.3 INDICATIONS OF CANONICITY**

- Two key truths:

- A) Each inspired book of Scripture was immediately canonical the moment they were \_\_\_\_\_

- B) The early church did not \_\_\_\_\_ which book was part of the Bible; they \_\_\_\_\_ and affirmed their inherent inspiration.

#### *Tests of Canonicity*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ by a spokesperson of God.  
- Usually, these people were \_\_\_\_\_ (OT) or \_\_\_\_\_ (NT).
- 3) Collected and preserved by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ with other known inspired books.

## 6.4 OLD TESTAMENT CANON

1) A great number of times the Torah itself attests to Moses's prophetic role and his activity of faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

Exodus 24:3-4a –

Exodus 34:27 –

Deuteronomy 31:9 –

2) From the very beginning, there was a process of faithful \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Law.

Deuteronomy 27:2-3 –

Deuteronomy 31:19, 22 –

3) The \_\_\_\_\_ continued the tradition of Moses, communicating God's Word to God's people.

Joshua 6:26 with 1 Kings 16:34 –

Daniel 9:2 with Jeremiah 25:11-12 –

Ezra 3:1-4 –

Ezra 7:1-6, 10 –

4) Many other \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrate the OT canon was viewed as authoritative Scripture.

A) The Dead Sea Scrolls

B) Other non-canonical books and writers

C) The New Testament

## 6.5 NEW TESTAMENT CANON

A) Many NT writers claim their \_\_\_\_\_ works come from God.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 –

2 Peter 3:2 –

2 Thessalonians 3:14 –

B) Many NT writers immediately recognized \_\_\_\_\_ NT books as canonical.

2 Peter 3:15-16 –

1 Timothy 5:18 with Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7 –

C) The widespread copying and \_\_\_\_\_ of NT books attests to their authority.

Colossians 4:16 –

D) The canon of Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_.

Revelation 22:18-19 –

## **6.6 DEBATED BOOKS**

A) There was some debate in the \_\_\_\_\_ centuries AD about several of the NT books.

B) Once the \_\_\_\_\_ was known about these books, the Church recognized them as canonical.

## ***CLASS 7: THE APOCRYPHA***

### **7.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Apocrypha: the books between the OT and NT that are accepted by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as canonical but rejected by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The Apocrypha was officially made canonical by the Catholic Church at the Council of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in 1546.

Deuteronomy 4:2 –

Revelation 22:18-19 –

### **7.2 REASONS FOR THE APOCRYPHA'S ACCEPTANCE**

1) The NT may \_\_\_\_\_ to certain books in the Apocrypha.

Hebrews 11:35 –

2) The \_\_\_\_\_, Dead Sea Scrolls and some early translations and copies of the Bible contained the Apocrypha.

3) Some early church \_\_\_\_\_ used the Apocrypha as Scripture.

4) The influence of the Council of Trent.



### 7.3 REASONS FOR THE APOCRYPHA'S REJECTION

1) The Apocrypha does not claim for itself the same kind of \_\_\_\_\_ as the OT writings.

1 Maccabees 9:27 –

2) The Apocrypha was never considered canonical by the \_\_\_\_\_, who wrote them.

Josephus, *Against Apion*, 1.8a –

3) \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ authors did not use the Apocrypha as authoritative Scripture.

Matthew 23:34-35 –

Luke 24:44 –

4) Many early church \_\_\_\_\_ rejected the Apocrypha as non-canonical.

5) The Apocrypha contains geographical, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ contradictions, errors and inconsistencies.

A) Historical/Geographical Errors

Tobit 1:15 –

Judith 1:1 –

Judith 4:1-3a –

Judith 2:21 –

Baruch 1:11 –

2 Esdras 3:1a –

#### B) Contradictions and Inconsistencies

Tobit 1:3-4a –

Tobit 14:2a –

Letter of Jeremiah 6:1, 3 –

#### C) Theological Errors

Tobit 12:9 –

Sirach 3:3 –

Sirach 3:30 –

2 Maccabees 12:44-45 –

### **7.4 HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS VIEW THE APOCRYPHA?**

A) The Apocrypha should \_\_\_\_\_ be viewed as canonical Scripture.

B) The Apocrypha may be helpful as \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ literature.

### 7.5 WHAT ABOUT NT AUTHORS QUOTING OTHER PAGAN AUTHORS?

Acts 17:28 –

1 Corinthians 15:33 –

Titus 1:12 –

Jude 1:9 –

Jude 1:14-15 –

A) The Pseudepigrapha are works written between 200 BC and 200 AD that express \_\_\_\_\_ views about the Jewish religion.

B) Quotations or references to extra-canonical books should be seen as \_\_\_\_\_ or acknowledging \_\_\_\_\_ from an outside source.