

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Prayer meeting/Bible study

Wednesday 22nd November 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymn, 324 Read Genesis 1:1-5 Text Genesis 1:1

Series – The Doctrine of God series (2) Title The Existence Of God (2)

As we continue in our study of the doctrine of God, we have noted that the **Existence of is real**.

God never seeks to prove He exists.

Rather, God declares His existence in the very first line of Scripture “***in the beginning God.***”

God does not set out to explain, argue or convince His creation of His reality, but to declare His existence.

God never defends Himself, He states “***in the beginning God.***”

Then the existence of God is rationalised, that is men seek to enter into debates, or conversation about matters relating to the existence of God.

While there are many arguments used yet they have the same thought and that is from **effect to cause**.

In other words, **every design must have a designer, and every designer has a design.**

The **effect** refers to the **design**, **what is created**, whereas the **cause** refers to the designer **who created it, a creator**

Then **every builder makes a building, or every building is made by a builder.** Therefore, **Hebrews 3:4**, “***For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.***”

The effect, design, creation,- this world,/ was created, designed, by God

In all these arguments we must also get to the Christological answer, who is Christ, because God has revealed Himself in the person of His Son.

Then we thought about **the existence of God is rejected.**
Psalm 14:1 we read "**the fool hath said in his heart there is no God.**" He is saying there is no God for me.

Man in his fallen nature will remain in his lost state, until he receives new life, delivering him out of spiritual darkness into spiritual light and life.

From saying God is nothing to me, to saying God is all things to me.

I want to continue with some more thoughts, please notice.

IV FOURTH, THE EXISTENCE OF GOD IS REVEALED

Having stated that God is real, and God declares His existence, notice, how God has revealed Himself to mankind.

Notice, God has revealed Himself by what is termed, **General or natural Revelation**, and then **Special or Supernatural Revelation**.

General or natural Revelation means God has revealed Himself to all mankind generally and universally.

Notice three ways of **General or natural Revelation**

1 The existence of God was revealed by CREATION.

In **Gen 1:1** God declares, "**in the beginning God created to the heaven and the earth.**" God spoke this world into its existence.
Psalm 33:6 "**By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.**"

The whole universe is a revelation of the glory of God, **Psalm 19:1** "**The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handy work.**"

Psalm 8:3 "**When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.**"

Job 38:4 God said to Job "**where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?**"

God as the Creator, made all things and in His creation, He revealed Himself to humanity, **Rom 1:20**, “**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.**”

Paul is here saying that creation is the appearance of things invisible. Creation is a mirror in which we can consider God who is invisible.

When God created Adam and Eve, **Gen 1:27** states “**God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female.**”

(**Heb 2:14** God “**crownedst him with glory and honour...**”)

(The Psalmist testified in **Ps 139:14** “**for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.**”)

Ecc 7:29 “**...God made man upright.**” After God created the world and man, **Gen 1:31** “**and God saw every thing that He had made and behold it was very good...**”

These verses show, when God created the world and mankind, there was no sin.

Humanity at this stage Adam in his unfallen state could look at creation and recognise creation as God’s work.

To Adam there was no confusion, no evolutionary process or progress, or big bang.

Adam could read creation correctly. Adam looked at a world and knew “**in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**”

However, when Adam sinned, he was blinded to the works of God.

Adam's fall did not make any change or defect to natural revelation, as God's creative works still shone with Glory, but man was now a fallen creature.

Therefore, sinners born with that sinful nature coming from Adam, look at Creation with a depraved and dull mind, and cannot see a Creator or the glory of God.

As a result, man misinterprets God's natural revelation, as Paul said in **Rom 1:25** "**who have changed the truth of God into a lie....**" **Rom 1:22** "**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.**"

Man in sin needs the transforming power of the gospel, He needs to be **regenerated**, that is new life, spiritual life, his mind and will renewed.

Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:17** "**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**"

The word **creature** means **creation, a new creation**. Notice, he is not the old man improved, bettered, a few add no's no, when a sinner is regenerated by the power of Holy Spirit, the receives a new principle within, a new way of life which is receives new life, once spiritually death but now spiritual life, they are a new creation.

2 The existence of God was revealed in men's conscience

When God created man, he wrote on his heart His Law, as summarised in the 10 commandments.

Paul confirmed this in **Romans 2:15**, when he writes, "...**the law written in their hearts,**"

Please, keep in mind, the context, that Paul was speaking to Gentiles non-Jews, those who did not have the law of God in a written form as the Jews did.

But the point made, weather they had a written copy of God's law or not, but by creation all humanity have the moral law written on their heart,

so that weather a person is a Jew or Gentile, none can escape from the authority of their Creator and from accountability to the Creator, they are left without excuse.

This means within the creation of man, he has a conscience, or as the word means **with-knowledge**.

The conscience is a moral awareness to discern right from wrong, good and evil.

The conscience of man has been described as God's alarm, His deputy, God's inner voice within the soul of man. It is a witness of God mark of creation inward.

Therefore, when a person is tempted to break God's law, let's take **thou shalt not lie**, then their conscience, or the knowledge written in their heart, alarms and alerts them, that lying is wrong, and therefore sin. There is the knowledge that man has sinned against God.

All men have the knowledge of God written upon their hearts, **but what do, they do with that knowledge**, they ignore it.

In **2 Timothy 4:2**, Paul instructed young Timothy in ministry, as he preached the word, there would be those who "**shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrine of devils, speaking lie in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron.**"

The word seared, "**seared**" (means **to cauterize**.)

(It comes from the verb *kaustēriazō*, and it)

means **to burn or to scar**. It is something **that leaves a mark of hardness**.

The picture is the effect of applying a hot iron to the skin or clothes. The burnt skin, becomes hard and is dead to feeling. Clothes burned by the iron, leaves a mark and becomes hard.

The hypocrites in view, have continued speaking lies day after day, month after month, and year after year, to the point where they have gotten so used it, they have silenced the voice of Gods there is a hardness towards God.

They have taken the knowledge of God and perverted it.

They possess a knowledge of the truth but perverted to a sinful use.

Paul said in **Romans 1:18-21** when he speaks of the “... ***ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness,***

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ 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:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

God has written His law, on man’s heart at creation; ***so that they are without excuse:*** and that it remains there even though man is now a fallen creature.

The fall of man into sin does not mean that the law originally written on the heart of man was erased, rather, the fall confirms that there was disobedience to God’s law that had been written on the heart.

Man is accountable to God as His creator, and one day man will stand before God, if not as their Saviour, then as their Judge to execute their eternal punishment.

God will never let sin go unpunished.

Jesus Christ bore the curse and punishment for sin all who would believe on Him. He was punished that sinners who rest in Him will never be punished.

However, all who reject Him in life, will suffer the punishment of sin for all eternity in hell.

The existence of God is revealed as men were created to worship.

God created the world and all therein for His own praise. Adam had the knowledge that God is to be worshipped.

However, since the fall of man into sin, while men know they must worship a higher being, a deity yet they have perverted that worship, **and who to worship.**

For instance, here in this country or in a jungle in the other side of the world, people worship, their idols, animals, statues, why because mankind was created for worship.

God made all things for His glory. However, **Ecc 7:29** "... **they have sought out many inventions.**"

When Paul went to Athens in **Acts 17**, he learned that the Athens worshipped false gods, and encase they missed one in **verse 23** they set up an altar "**to the unknown God.**" Yet they knew, a higher power above themselves ought to be worshipped.

Paul took the opportunity given to proclaim unto them only living and true God who is the Creator and Redeemer of sinners.

He alone is to be worshipped. **Verse 24-25** "**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with**

hands;²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;” in **verse 29** **“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.”**

God is not a figure of man's imagination, or a invention of men, Rather God is self-existence, self sufficient. He is without beginning or end.

He commands to be worshipped in truth. He is to be worshipped through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, **verses 30-31** **“but now commandeth all men every where to repent, because He hath appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained... that man is Christ.**

The existence of God is revealed to men through Christ

This is where **Special and Supernatural Revelation** is needed.

General or Natural revelation cannot save it was not redemptive in nature, at Creation there was no sin.

Therefore **Special revelation** is needed because its redemptive in nature. It is God intervening in the lives of sinners to call a people unto Himself.

Special revelation is exclusive for it deals with God purpose to save a people. You hear me often say, the Eternal redemptive purposes of God in Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ testified to the existence of God, because He is truly God. He said in **John 10:30** **“I and my Father are one.”**

Christ spoke of the existence of God in **John 17:1** **“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,**

Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

The Saviour in answering Philip's question in **John 14:8** "...***Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.***" **Verse 9** "***Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?***"

God revealed Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, Paul said of Christ in **Hebrews 1:3** "***Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person...***"

Paul confirms that Jesus Christ, He is God. He is the eternal Son of God. He did not become the Son of God nor was He created.

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the Second person of the Godhead.

In eternity The Son dwelt with His father in glory before He came to earth to take our nature only without sin.

Christ's person is eternal – As a divine person He did not come into existence.

His divine nature is eternal, having no beginning and no end. In His deity The Eternal Son is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father.

However, **His human nature** did have a beginning – at the incarnation. Therefore, Christ is the perfect manifestation of God. He is the very essence or nature of God.

All that God is, Christ is. All the perfections of eternal deity are His.

Notice, "***Who being the brightness of His glory.***"

(The literal rendering of these words, show, Jesus Christ is said to be '***the brightness of the glory***'.)

This is the divine glory.

This word '**brightness**', only used here; means **to send forth brightness**.

The term refers to the source of radiance. Christ is the source of glory.

Just as the rays of sunlight cannot be separated from the sun, they are one, so the Father and Son relate to each other they cannot be separate, they are one.

To see Christ is to see God, and to see the Son is to see the father.

In Christ there radiates forth the brightness of the divine glory or divine nature that He possesses.

All the divine perfections are seen through Christ.

Furthermore, Christ is said to be '**the express image of His person**'. The words, **Express image** – simply mean **the exact presentation of His nature**.

From, this word **express image**, comes to meaning **to engrave, to stamp, a sign, a mark.**

The phrase is borrowed from a roman practise, whereby the Emperor would take his ring which had is personal inscription and put it in hot wax and then put his ring on a letter, leaving his mark, conforming it came from the emperor, because it bore his express image. And so Christ is the express image of God's person.

Jesus Christ is the perfect or exact Image of God, because He is God. God, He is the manifestation of God.

Therefore, Christ is the Godman, two distinct natures in one person forever. He is Emmanuel God with us. He is the eternal word made flesh and dwelt among us.

He took our humanity unto Himself, in order to live a perfect life and die a propitiatory death, to turn away the wrath of God against sinners who receive Him as Saviour.

Praise the Lord believer for that wonderful day when we as lost guilty sinners, confessed with our mouth and believed with our heart on the sinless person and substitutionary & successful work of Christ.