

The Truth About God

This lesson may well begin with the question, “Is there a God?”

Even if one is prepared to acknowledge the fact that God exists, he may not be prepared to acknowledge that God exists in the Trinity.

The word “trinity” does not appear in the Bible but is implied from the very first Book in the Bible, Genesis. It is beyond the finite to be able to explain the Trinity in a concise sentence.

Biblical truth can only come to a searching heart to which the Lord will reveal all he needs to know in terms of “the way, the truth, and the life”. See I Cor. 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

We cannot take the God-head apart into three sections - accepting one without the other. Col. 2:9 “For in Him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” 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.”

The word “God is a uni-plural noun as recorded in Gen. 1:26, 27 “And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created him; male and female created He them.” John 10: 30 “I and my Father are one.” 14: 9, 10 “Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.”

How clear this is expressed at Jesus baptism in Matt. 3:16, 17. One cannot address the Father as God and reject the Son. Consider the emphatic statement John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.”

In knowing Christ alone there is salvation: John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

Seeking to approach God apart from embracing the equality of the three in one, the trinity, is being on the path of destruction, John 10:1 “Verily verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”

I John 5:19 “He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not that God gave His Son.”

This gives reason for man to believe the whole Bible as did Paul, Acts 24:14 “ But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.” Rom. 9:5 “Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen”. John had the same to say “John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

God has not given man, in all his limitation, to be an arbitrator of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible rests on miracles, which are beyond man’s comprehension. The Bible does not have to prove itself, I Pet. 1: 19 -21 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your heart: knowing this first, that no prophesy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.” Jesus said Matt. 11:25 “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”

As we do not have to contend with the blind man about the light so we do not have to contend with the man who is in spiritual darkness – he cannot grasp the things of God. There is no spiritual understanding lest he be drawn to God, John 6:44 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and will raise

Him up at the last day.” I Cor. 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Seeing God

The statement “see God” appears frequently in the Scriptures, which raises the question, “Is man able to “see God”? Frequently the Scripture also says, “No man hath seen God!” Is it suggested that we see the works of God? As a boy I saw Hitler in what he did during the Second World War – is that what may be meant in man seeing God?

God has revealed Himself in varied forms, deeds, history, nature and, above all through His Son. Abram had a visit from God in the form of a “theophany” as recorded in Gen 18: 1-33; 32: 28-30. Again, we have a most remarkable revelation recorded in Ex. 3: 1-15 where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. God clarifies the fact that this was His divine revelation. He is in V. 14 “I AM THAT I AM.” As the Israelites left Egypt, God accompanied them in the miraculous way of the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of the cloud by day. God has revealed Himself throughout His word as we see in Isa. 6:1 “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple”.

If ever there would be the revelation of God, He is seen in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, John 14: 9 “Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long with time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the father; and how saith thou then, Shew us the father”. Now, has anyone ever seen God? Consider 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”. How clear this is made in Col. 1:15 “Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature.” No! God has not been seen, John 6: 46 “Not that any man hath seen the Father, save He which is of God, (Jesus) He hath seen the Father”. I Tim. 6:16 “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 honuor and power everlasting. Amen”. I John 4:12 “No man hath seen God at

any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, (Holy Spirit) and His love is perfected in us”.

God is unsearchable, therefore the attributes, character of God are far reaching above the finite ability of man as recorded in Psa. 145:3 “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.” It has been clarified from Scripture that mortal man has not, and can not see God – it would be devastating for sinful man to see God; he would not survive the seeing of God.

The question now is. ‘Will he see God when immortal’? Matt. 5:8 relates an astounding statement that will make us evaluate what we have said heretofore, “Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God”. Read Rev. 1:4-8 and chapter 4; 5:6. The scene in heaven expresses what the immortal man, serving the God of the universe will see, Rev. 22: 3,4 “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads”. In the light of the above, what kind of folk ought we to be? See I John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.”

Jerry Vander Veen: Email: jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca