

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 1: THE REVELATION OF GOD

Main Idea: *The doctrine of revelation is the answer to the question: How is God to be known? If God is to be known, then He must reveal Himself, and He has chosen to reveal Himself through the means of general and special revelation.*

Common answers to the question, how can God be known?

1. *God Cannot Be Known*
 2. *Human Reason*
 3. *Divine Revelation*
- Acts 17:16-34

I. What Is Revelation and Why Do We Need It?

A. What Is Revelation?

B. Why Must God Reveal Himself For Him To Be Known?

1. The God-ness of God

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:34-36)

2. The Human-ness of Humanity

But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:2-4)

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II. General Revelation: God Making Himself Known Generally, Especially His Eternal Power and Divine Nature

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Romans 1:18-20)

- A. Creation

- B. Providence and History

- C. Enough to Leave Us Without Excuse

Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God so much that man is left without any excuse, they are not sufficient to provide that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary for salvation.¹

III. Special Revelation: God Making Himself Known Personally, Especially His Eternal Purposes and Grace in Jesus Christ

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs (Hebrews 1:1-4).

- A. At Many Times and In Many Ways

- B. By the Prophets

- C. By His Son

IV. Scripture is the Prophetic Word More Fully Confirmed

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. (1 Peter 1:19-20)

¹ *The Baptist Confession of Faith*, updated by Peter Masters, (London: The Wakeman Trust, 1981) 7.