

SEMINAR – GOD OF THE BIBLE

Statement by Tozer – “Whatever you think of God is the most important thing about you.”

A. This is the most important study you will ever make.

1. Why is this statement true?

A.W. Tozer - writes that almost everything wrong with the society of his day was due to the fact that, as a nation, we had been losing the knowledge of God.

He stated that almost all of life’s problems and their solutions are theological and that the person who comes to a right belief about God will relieve himself of many other problems in life,

and that the person who has a wrong concept about God will add many other problems to his life.

B. Have you noticed that there is hardly a problem in society that can’t be traced back to faulty ideas about God.

1. **Charles Darwin** – concluded, ***“Everything in nature is the result of fixed laws.”***

a. **Social Darwinism** is the theory that human groups and races are subject to the same laws

of natural selection as Charles Darwin perceived in plants and animals in nature.

2. **Hitler** took this philosophy for example,

a. Applied the Darwinian view to society with horrific human consequences,

b. Arguing, *“If nature does not wish that weaker individuals should mate with the stronger, nature wishes even less that a superior race should intermingle with an inferior one.”*

He then said, “Such preservation goes hand-in-hand with the unchangeable law that it is the strongest and the best who must triumph and that they have the right to endure.

With that, he slaughtered an estimated 12 million human beings, which he considered to be inferior breeds.

C. Look at our society today and how a change in their view of God has allowed our world to go spiritually mad.

1. Does pro-life or pro-choice matter? Is it traditional marriage, or do you get married to anything?

2. Is a man a man, or is there no absolute truth anymore?

Tozer - It is impossible for an individual to keep their moral practices sound or for a society to keep their values right when their ideas about God are imperfect or flawed. Why?

C. Understand this, **how you view God**

1. Will define how you view scripture.
2. Will define your worldview and sociality?
3. And when you suffer, how does God play a part in your comfort and loss? **Have you ever blamed God?**

Pastor Raul - God is eternal and infinite. We are finite and unable to fully comprehend the things of God, much less his full character. We recognize our limitations and comprehend God's character.

So, we must enter into the study of God with humility and reverence, knowing that we can only get a small glimpse of the greatness of God, those things which he reveals to us through his Word.

Greeks say, "Know yourself, look within, look back at your past."

Christians say, "to know your God."

God says, “Don’t look to yourself. Look above, look to God, look to the word.”

D. So this morning, we will answer some misconceptions about God.

1. Why does God allow suffering?

2. If God, why evil?

3. If God exists and if I can prove that God exists.

4. Define that Jesus is God.

4 QUESTIONS THAT ARE ALWAYS ASKED ABOUT GOD

1. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

Matthew 11:28-29: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

If man does not ever have the knowledge to suffer, man would not have any consequences for his actions.

a. Suffering allows us to recognize our limitations.

b. Because none of us are promised tomorrow,

We must remember that God does not take lives. We meet so many people who blame God for the problems in life.

c. The misconception is that God is bringing evil to me.

1. In 6 months, I lost my Godson and my son.

The Bible teaches that God knows the day that you're going to die.

Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

2. Suffering allows us to evaluate our lives and our love for others.

d. So, we always need to build our relationship with God to prepare us for any tragedy that may come our way.

2. IF GOD, WHY EVIL?

James 1:13 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”

- a. We have peace knowing that God loves us and is not bringing harm to us.
- b. God created everything good, but in giving man free will (a tooth, rust on a car, or the heart)
- c. Free will allows man to reject God, to reject what is good, and then to become evil.
- d. **We would define evil this way, “evil is a corruption of something that is good.”**

3. CAN I PROVE THAT GOD EXISTS?

- 1. What people crave, or desire really exists.
- 2. What does not exist, man does not desire (*pot of gold at the end of a rainbow*).
- 3. We may reject or argue against the existence of something, but that does not mean that it does not exist, love or God.
- 4. But what we desire or need really exists.

a. Food, water, love, and man desires God.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts,

So, an infinite thirst in our hearts will never be satisfied by anything that is temporal. (Robin Williams)

Former Atheist Francis Collins - “Why would such a universal and uniquely human hunger for God exist if it were not connected to some opportunity for fulfillment?

5. Therefore, God really exists.

4. WHY DID GOD BECAME A MAN

A. In the history of man, people have always tried to define God but could not.

a. Who is God?

b. Man tries to create a god that they can serve.

1. And sacrifice to this god.

c. Man has always been trying to discover God but could not.

1. So, the question is, how can finite man define the Infinite God?

d. It's impossible for the finite to define the Infinite.

1. So, the Bible says God became a man.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

B. Charles Ryrie defines the pre-existence of Christ as ***“He existed before his birth.”***

1. Trinity – In God, there is one essence and three persons

Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics - Trinity simply means “Triunity.” The Trinity is one of the great mysteries of the Christian Faith.

C. The Trinity goes beyond reason but not against reason.

1. It is known only by divine revelation, so the Trinity is not the subject of natural theology but special revelation.

2. While the Word Trinity does not occur in the Bible, the concept is clearly taught in the Bible.

I. DEFINING THE 2 NATURES (DIVINE AND HUMAN) OF CHRIST

A. The Bible, speaks of His deity. Yet there is so much confusion about Jesus being God. (God or Son of God)

Even Christians will say that Jesus never claim to be God in the Bible.

ALL CULTS HAVE ONE MOTIVE, AND THAT IS TO CHANGE THE VIEW OF HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY

1. The Father said, “this is my beloved Son.”

Matt. 17:5 - While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

2. The angel Gabriel claimed He was God.

Matthew 1:23 - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

3. Demons claimed He was God.

Matt. 8:29 - And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

4. Humans claimed Jesus was God.

a. Thomas claimed Jesus was God.

John 20:28 - And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

b. Matthew claimed Jesus was God.

Matt. 3:16 - When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

c. Mark claimed Jesus was God.

Mark 2:5-7 - When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

d. Luke claimed Jesus was God.

Luke 2:11 - For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

e. John claimed Jesus was God.

1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

f. Peter claimed Jesus was God.

2 Peter 1:1- Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

g. Paul claimed Jesus was God.

Col 2:9 - For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

B. When we look at types of worship in the Bible

1. Humans (Paul and Barnabas) refused worship.

Acts 14:11-15 - 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Zeus, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to worship and sacrifice with the multitudes.

14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out

15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you,

2. Angels also refused worship.

Revelation 22:8-9 - Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the

prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

C. Yet Jesus accepted worship on many occasions, which was due to God alone.

1. The Gerasene demoniac.

Mark 5:6 - When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.

2. A blind man.

John 9:38 - Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

3. Doubting Thomas.

John 20:28 - And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

4. The women at the tomb.

Matt. 28:9 - And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So, they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

5. A Canaanite woman.

Matt. 15:25 - Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

6. His disciples.

Matt. 14:33 - Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

7. A healed leper.

Matt. 8:2 - And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

D. Jesus never rebuked anyone who worshipped Him.

1. He even commended some for acknowledging His deity.

Matt. 16:17 - Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

E. Jesus says His words as equal with God's words

1. Important to note what Jesus spoke of Himself:

Matt. 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

2. He rejects Me and does not receive my words.

John 12:48 - He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the Word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

3. Asked His disciples to pray in His name.

John 14:13 - And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

4. Said that He Himself is the only way to get to heaven

John 14:6 – I am the Way the Truth and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me.

5. Jesus claimed that the scriptures declare Him as God.

John 5:39-40 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

II. THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS BELIEVED THE TRINITY

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - From the beginning, Christians have affirmed the claim that there is one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each of whom is God.

A. The Early Church taught the Trinity.

1. The Fathers of the first two centuries after Christ followed the teachings of the New Testament in affirming the Trinity.

- a. Lies about the Trinity

B. What the Early Church Fathers Believed About the Trinity

1. Polycarp (70–155 AD), bishop of Smyrna, was **taught by the apostle John.**

- a. He wrote, “May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ Himself, who is the Son of God, and our everlasting High Priest, build you up in faith and truth.”

2. Theophilus of Antioch (120-190 A.D.), one of the early Fathers of the Church

- a. He was the first of the early church fathers to use the word “trinity” when speaking about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together.”

3. Tertullian (155 AD – 240 AD) also used the word “trinity.”

- a. We define that there are two, the Father and the Son, and three with the Holy Spirit, (which) brings about unity in the Trinity,

The Nicene-Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD) says: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in God head and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body.

C. As we conclude, The Two Natures of Christ Simplified:

JESUS AS GOD

Divine nature

Omni-presence

He is worshipped

He is prayed to

He is sinless

He knows all things

JESUS AS GOD

Infinite knowledge

He gives eternal life

He never dies

The fullness of deity dwells in Him

Unchanging

No beginning

JESUS AS MAN

Human nature

Limited to time and space

He worshipped the Father

He prayed to the Father

He was tempted

He grew in wisdom

JESUS AS MAN

Finite knowledge

He died

He died on the cross

He has a body of flesh and bones

Changing

Had a Beginning (birth)

As Titus says in 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

D. So, a person would have to be blind to not to be able to see that the Bible clearly teaches that **JESUS IS GOD.**

I hope that we have answered these four questions as we close.

1. Why does God allow suffering?
2. If God, why evil?
3. I can prove that God exists.
4. We defined Jesus as 100 percent God and 100 percent Man.

Summary of the Creeds on God's Trinity - There is one and only one true God who is almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who is eternally, light, holy, a spirit, giver of life and hope,

Can resurrect the dead, will judge all men, can forgive sins, and who is one substance, one nature, and one being. And He alone is to be worshipped and glorified.