

Lesson 16

Nov 7, 2023

We will begin with a review of topics taught in previous lessons. We have covered how Paul instructed Titus to teach to several groups. Older men, older women, young men, young women, slaves and their masters. Each group had unique things that were relevant and teaching was specified for each group. We learned about qualifications for elders and pastor-teachers and the role that they would play in the plan of God. We also learned of special situations that needed to be handled in the church and the way to deal with them by leaders. Why was all of this teaching so detailed and what was its purpose?

Titus 2:10 - not pilfering but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Remember that adorning the doctrine of God, was like putting beautiful jewelry in a display box. Protected and on display to everyone. It is this treasure that God has given us as a free gift! Don't you want to show others?

Adorning the Doctrine. In Titus 2:10 we read, "That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." The doctrine of God as revealed in the New Testament is a glorious system of

truth. God's law is noble and holy and one that excites our admiration. When it is preached, it draws men unto it and unto God.

Titus 2:11-12 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12) instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

has appeared - επιφαίνω "Epiphaino" (Has appeared clearly)

- ① to cause something to be seen
- ② to provide illumination, give light
- ③ to make one's presence known, become apparent

Has the grace of God appeared? Can you explain how to someone? (Rom 1:19-20; Job 12:7-10)

Rom 1:19-20 - 19) because that which is **known about God** is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

20) For since the creation of the world His "**invisible attributes**", His (God's) eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made (creation), so that they (unbelievers) are without excuse.

THE ESSENCE BOX

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

LOVE
JUSTICE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
SOVEREIGNTY
ETERNAL LIFE
IMMUTABILITY
VERACITY
OMNIPOTENCE
OMNISCIENCE
OMNIPRESENCE

These verses declare that knowledge concerning God is available to all. This knowledge is called "natural revelation" because it is seen in the created world, is accessible to the entire human race. Paul called this knowledge plain (φανερών "phaneron"), which means **evident or clear**.

Vs. 19 states the fact of natural revelation and verse 20 explains the process.

1:20. "What may be known about God" (v. 19) is now called God's **invisible qualities** and identified as His **eternal power** and **divine nature**.

(John 4:24 - God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.)

Since "God is spirit", all His qualities are invisible to physical eyes and can be understood by the human mind only as they are reflected in what has been made, that is, in God's creative work. The self-existent God, however, is the Creator of all things, and therefore since the Creation of the world His "invisible qualities" have been clearly seen. Paul may have intended a play on words between the noun translated "invisible qualities" (aoratatos) and the verb translated "clearly seen" (kathorao) because they share a common Greek root.

ἀόρατος "aoratatos" - (Invisible qualities) pertains to not being subject to being seen, unseen, invisible, of God.

καθοράω "Kathorao" - (Clearly seen) perceive, notice

Meaning God's invisible attributes are perceived with the eye of reason in the things that have been made.

Both the verb "clearly seen" and the participle "being understood" are in the present tense, which emphasizes the continuous nature of the action.

The word θειότης "theiotēs", translated "divine nature," occurs only here in the New Testament and embraces the properties

which make God "God". **Creation**, which people see, reveals God's unseen character, Him being the all-powerful Deity.

Creation is plainly seen and demands a creator.

There is an Old Testament parallel to these verses in Psalm 19:1-6.

This verse speaks of God Consciousness!

Psalm 19:1-6 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2) Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

3) There is no speech, nor are there words, their voices are not heard. 4) Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, 5) Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course. 6) It's arising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the other end of them; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

David announced that the heavens declare the glory (splendor) of God's handiwork. (vs 1) is a summary statement: the majestic Creation is evidence of the even more majestic Creator-God.

The heavens continually (day after day ... night after night) display the fact that there is a Creator (v. 2). Even though Creation does not speak audibly in words, its message (voice)

goes out to the ends of the earth. The message from nature about the glory of God reaches all nations and is equally intelligible to them all. (vs. 4-6) Dominant in the heavens is the sun. Like a bridegroom who excitedly leaves his house on his wedding day, the sun rises; and like a champion runner racing on his course, the sun proudly and with anticipation of the new day, makes its circuit.

Paul's conclusion to this description of natural revelation is important - **men are without excuse**. The witness of God in nature is so clear and so constant that ignoring it is indefensible.

John A. Witmer, "Romans," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary

Job 12:7-10 - 7) "But now ask the beasts and let them teach you; And the birds of the heavens and let them tell you.

8) "Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; and let the fish of the sea declare to you. 9) "Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, 10) In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?

salvation to all men - Does this mean all men are able to be saved? What about the people in the deepest parts of Africa or

anywhere else that is remote in the world that have never heard the gospel?

****Answer****

- The gospel in every generation goes out throughout the world. (1 Tim 3:16, Acts 17:6, Col 1:6)
- The application of the doctrine of Divine Essence.

(Justice and God's perfect Righteousness mean that it is impossible for God to be unfair or unjust to anyone).

- Doctrine of Unlimited Atonement

2 Cor 5:14-15 - 14) For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15) and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Cor 5:19 - namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

1 Tim 2:6 - who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Heb 2:9 - But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

- God's Sovereignty - 2 Pet 3:9 - The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

(Only negative volition at God Consciousness or at gospel hearing hinders salvation).

- God Consciousness = Man becomes aware of the existence of God. (Psalm 19:1-6 mentioned above)
(either one wants to know God or does not)
- Gospel Hearing = Man receives gospel information.
- Volition - He either accepts the gospel or not.
- *Point*: If any person, no matter what his location on the planet desires a relationship with God after

reaching God Consciousness, then God will provide gospel information in order that the person may be saved.

(Jer 29:13, John 7:17, Acts 17:26-27)

Jer 29:13 - You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

John 7:17 - "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

Acts 17:26-27 - 26) and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, **having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation**, 27) that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

- Principle of Accountability: Mankind **has the ability** to arrive at God Consciousness through the activity of his own mind. (Read Rom 1:18-32) Here lies the issue!
- (The point of Accountability varies with age, culture and environment).

There are 5 mechanics of God Consciousness:

1. Religious approach - God must exist because people universally believe in God's existence.

(children hear people talk about God when they are young)

2. Moral or anthropological approach - Man has a conscience, if man has an urge to do right, there must be an absolute right. To a greater or lesser degree man possesses a conscience in his soul, which at times, chooses right over wrong. A material un-governed universe could know nothing of moral values or distinctions.
3. Ontological approach - An ontological approach looks at the things the data is about and uses them as the basis for the structure of the data.
The human mind conceives the concept of an infinite perfect being so such a being must exist.
4. Teleological approach - Design demands a designer.
The structure of the universe demands a designer.
Both telescopes and microscopes reveal order, design and arrangement. An atom or a galaxy demonstrates this.
5. Cosmological approach - The intuitive law of cause and effect demands the existence of God. For every cause, there is an effect, intuitive thinking is thinking about the cause behind the effect.

Heathens are heathens because of their own **negative volition** - not because they do not know there is a God or that they have no chance to be saved because they haven't heard about Him. Any person who is **positive at God Consciousness** will receive the gospel so that he may be saved.

******Note****** Just believing in a supreme being will not cut it!

There are many false teachers distorting God's truths. It's part of the Angelic Conflict. Be wise and discern not only who your teachers are, but most importantly, what your teachers are teaching. Learn to discern the context of scripture and how it applies to you and the church. Recognize unskilled teachers that use Illegitimate Totality Transfers.

If a pastor teachers primary focus is on separating you from your money, he is likely a false teacher. If he is promoting stunts that resemble miracles that he performs, Run!!

If he is teaching anything that puts your salvation in your own hands, by basing it on works, you being equal to God, special gifts as in speaking in tongues or healing, he is not teaching the redemptive salvation by Jesus Christ. Jesus did ALL of the work for our salvation. His work is complete.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 3:36 - "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not believe in the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."