

# Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

## Class 5: The Doctrine of God, part 1

### *The Existence of God*

*"... this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*

**John 17. 3**

#### **I. The Existence of the One, True God**

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Genesis 1.1**

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

**Deuteronomy 6. 4-9**

*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.*

**Psalms 96.5**

*I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;*

**Isaiah 45.5**

<sup>10</sup> *Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

**Malachi 2.10**

<sup>28</sup> *And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

**Mark 12.28-29**

*... is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup>since God is one ...*

**Romans 3.29-30**

<sup>4</sup> *Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one."*

**1 Corinthians 8.4**

*You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*

**James 2.19**

*We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

**Nicene Creed**

## II. Scriptural Evidence Affirming the Existence of God

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."*

**Psalm 14.1; 53.1**

*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

**Psalm 19. 1-4**

*Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.*

**Isaiah 40. 21-23**

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of **God**,<sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,<sup>3</sup> concerning **his Son**, who was descended from David according to the flesh<sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of **God** in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,<sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,<sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,*

*<sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from **God our Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my **God** through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup> For **God** is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by **God's** will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — <sup>12</sup> that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup> So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of **God** for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of **God** is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of **God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about **God** is plain to them, because **God** has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew **God**, they did not honor him as **God** or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal **God** for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

**Romans 1. 1-23**

### III. Extra-Biblical “Proofs” Supporting/Attesting to the Existence of God

#### A. Ontological

- Anselm (1033-1109)
- Argument from reason
- “God is that of which no greater can be conceived.”

#### B. Cosmological

- Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
- Argument from creation (or the cosmos)
- “For everything in existence, there must be a source of its origin. For every effect, there must be a cause. For every movement, there must be a Mover.”

#### C. Teleological

- William Paley (1743-1805)
- Argument from design, order
- “With every design comes a designer. The more complex the design, the more complex the designer.”

#### D. Moral

- CS Lewis (1898-1963)
- Argument from objective moral laws, values
- “That’s my seat. I was here first!”

#### E. Transcendental

- Cornelius VanTil (1895-1987)
- Argument from reason
- “We must argue from the impossibility of the contrary: if we deny the God of the Bible, we jettison the very grounds for assuming that our minds have the capacity for rational thought and reliable knowledge of the world.”

*The Bible does not give us a watertight argument. It gives us a watertight person against whom there is no argument.*

**Dick Lucas**

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

**1 Corinthians 1. 18-25**