

DEFENDABLE FAITH - ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

How Can We Know About God?

TEXT: Ps. 19

INTRODUCTION: The arguments for the existence of God will help people to see the necessity of a Creator, but they do not tell us a lot about who the Creator is or what He is like.

So how can we know about God, who He is, what He is like, what does He expect of us? Several ways come to mind.

- By reason or logic
- By _____
- By feelings or emotions
- By _____
- By information from others

However, the bottom line concerning each of these sources of answers to our questions is that while any and all of them might be helpful, we could never be absolutely certain that we had the correct answer because each source is _____.

What else can be done, especially in light of the fact that these sources leave us with potentially _____ answers? And since people come up with a great diversity of answers to virtually every question that can be raised about God, we know that many people have to be wrong. So,

- how do we get right answers,
- _____ answers,
- answers in which we can have confidence?

God has to _____ Himself and His ways to us.” In Psalm 19, the Holy Spirit through David declares that God has revealed Himself to us in two ways.

_____ **Revelation** (also called Natural Revelation)

_____ **Revelation** (also called Specific Revelation)

GENERAL REVELATION

- **General revelation is that which can be known about God by observing _____.**

Psalm 19:1-6 NKJV 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 *There is* no speech nor language *Where* their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *And* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6 Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

- The naked eye can see plenty of the grandeur, majesty, beauty, complexity, and _____ in creation.
- The telescope reveals both the magnitude of God's creation and the fact that the order we observe in our world extends into the _____, far beyond what the unaided eye can see. The universe is filled with more galaxies than can be numbered. Each one has its own uniqueness, yet each testifies of consistency of _____ and operation.
- The microscope reveals more again. The cell has an exterior membrane that permits entrance by chemicals or entities that benefit its enterprises, but _____ all other would be intruders. The cell continually remanufactures its own wearing parts, installing the new and disposing of the old. It metabolizes its food and discards its own _____. It does all of this while also performing the function for which it was designed, like a red blood cell carries oxygen to other cells.

How do these things tell us something about God?

The complexity and order of the things of creation tell us there has to be a _____.

SPECIAL REVELATION

- **The meaning of Special Revelation is "God's unveiling of particular information about Himself, His _____, His purposes, or His activities."**
- **How has God sent this Special Revelation?**
 - **Theophany - an _____ of God**

Genesis 18:1 NKJV Then the LORD appeared to him (Abraham) by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

- _____ - **God gives men a truth to speak**

Numbers 12:6-8 NKJV 6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, *I*, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. 7 Not so with My servant Moses; He *is* faithful in all My house. 8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. ..."

- **The _____ - God entered into human flesh**

Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJV 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- **The _____**

Psalms 19:7-11 NKJV

7 The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul;

The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple;

8 The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

- **The Bible is a record of the theophanies, prophecies, and the incarnation.**
- **The Bible is _____ than a record of revelation; it is revelation.**

2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

- **Today, this written revelation is the _____ means by which we can know any of the specific things God has revealed in the past.**

➤ **It is a _____ revelation.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV 16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

All we _____ to know of God's appearances to man is written in the Bible.

- **It is a _____ revelation.** God's written Word is complete.

Revelation 22:18-19 NKJV 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- **It is a _____ revelation.**

John 20:30-31 NKJV 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Sometimes critics of the Scripture will try to pit the Bible against _____ by saying, "My ultimate authority is Jesus, not the Bible." But we know nothing about Jesus apart from the Bible.

Sometimes someone will say, "But I disagree with what the Bible says because I feel that Jesus wouldn't want that." That person is not putting Jesus above the Bible, they are putting their _____ above the Bible. There is no contradiction between what our Lord Jesus wants and what the Bible teaches.

CONCLUSION: God _____ us to know Him.

- God wants us to know who He is and what He is like.
- He wants us to know His ways and His desires and demands for us.

God knows, even better than any of us realize, that we can never come to the right conclusions concerning Himself just through our own reasoning, feelings, or experiences. Therefore He has _____ Himself to us:

- first by showing us in dramatic and ever-present ways the handiwork of His power and wisdom through _____,
- second by declaring specifically the things we need to know through the _____.