

Twelve Lessons

on

Bible Doctrines

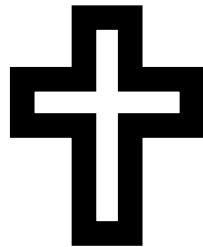
Volume I

Written & Compiled

by

Eugene Goodman, Th.G., D.D.

The Staff of Macedonia Baptist College



Macedonia Baptist College

9722 Hwy 601

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 784-4200

\$6.00

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THE DOCTRINE OF GOD – LESSON 1

Introduction: Someone will no doubt raise the question, “Why preach a series on Doctrine?” The answer is, all doctrine is practical, and all practice must be based on sound doctrine. Doctrine that is not practical is not healthy doctrine. And practice that is not based on doctrine is not rightly based. There is one living and true God, the Creator of the universe. The Bible teaches that God performed a special act of creation in which the universe came into existence. There was a time when there was nothing except God. At the end of His creative work, there was a solar system, an earth, and all the creatures which live upon it. Genesis 1:1 – *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* Genesis 1 is the only place where any detailed explanation is given concerning the origin of places and things. The Bible makes no attempt to prove the existence of God. It simply states “In the beginning God.”

Lesson Goals:

1. Discuss the existence of God as trinity of God as Creator.
2. Give a glimpse of God’s person and attributes.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Elohim – Gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative
2. Omnipotence – Almighty power; unlimited or infinite power; a word in strictness applicable only to God. Hence it is sometimes used for God. The works of creation demonstrate the omnipotence of God.
3. Righteousness – Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. Righteousness, as used in Scripture and theology, in which it is chiefly used, is nearly equivalent to holiness, comprehending holy principles and affections of heart, and conformity of life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue, with holy affections; in short, it is true religion. Applied to God, the perfection or holiness of his nature; exact rectitude; faithfulness.

I. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

A. God Is Creator

1. Hebrews 11:3 – *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”*
2. Nehemiah 9:6 – *“Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”*
3. God “created” and “made” all things. The word “create” occurs only three times in Genesis 1; at the origin of matter (1:1), the beginning of animal life (1:21), and the beginning of human life (1:27). These are the three areas where materialistic evolutionists have no explanation. Let God be Creator and all questions are answered.
4. The question is not “How was creation effected?”, but rather, “By whom was creation effected?” Genesis 1 answers, *“God created, ...God said, ...God saw, ...God divided, ...God called, God made, ...God set, ...God blessed.”* The name of God occurs thirty times in Genesis 1, plus six other times when pronouns refer to Him. The person in creation is God.

B. God is Tri-Unity

1. Let me begin by saying that no one can fully explain the trinity of the Godhead. “Try to explain it and you will lose your mind, try to explain it away and you will lose your soul.” I can’t explain it, but I believe it. The Bible plainly teaches that there are three persons in one Godhead.
2. The doctrine of the trinity is taught in Genesis 1. “Elohim”, the English form of “God,” first of the three primary names of Deity, is a uni-plural noun formed from El = strength, or the strong one, and Alah = to swear, or to bind oneself by an oath, so implying faithfulness. This uni-plurality implied in the name is directly asserted in Genesis 1:26 (plurality), 17 (unity); see also Genesis 3:22. Thus the trinity is latent in Elohim.” Scofield Reference Bible.
3. The doctrine is stated in the New Testament in the baptismal formula. Matthew 28:19 – *“...in the name (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*
4. It is stated in the apostolic benediction: II Corinthians 13:14 – *“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”*

II. THE ESSENCE OF GOD.

A. God is a Spirit – John 4:24 – By this we mean that He is not material substance, He does not have a body.

1. He is independent of space and time. There are two important aspects of God's nature implied in the word spirit.
2. First is the fact that as spirit He is independent of space. This means His presence is everywhere.
 - a. Space can't hold Him, yet He dwells in space. He is everywhere and beyond. His dwelling place is without limitation.
 - b. This means that God is omnipresent (everywhere at the same time). Jeremiah 23:24; Acts 17:24, 27; Psalms 139:7-10.
3. The second is the fact that God as a spirit is independent of time. He is eternal. He can and does enter time, but He also transcends time. II Peter 3:8 – "...one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." God dwells in eternity (Isaiah 57:15).

B. God is Power

1. Forty-seven times in the Old Testament God is referred to as "almighty" and nine times in the New Testament. (see Strong's Concordance)
2. We use the word omnipotence to describe the power of God. It is a compound word made up of omni, which means "all", and potent which means "power". Omnipotence means all power. (Romans 13:1) There is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained by God.
3. God's power is infinite in scope, Psalms 147:5 – "*Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*"
4. God's power is manifested in nature. Read Psalms 147. He counts and names the stars (vs. 4). He sends the rain, and causes the grass to grow (vs. 8). He feeds the beasts of the forest and the birds of the air (vs. 9). He sends the frost, snow, and ice (vs. 15-17). He causes the wind to blow and water to flow (vs. 18).

C. God is Personal

1. Psalms 90:1 – "*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place....*" Our dwelling place is not a "what", but a "who." God does not give us a dwelling place, He **is** our dwelling place.
2. Notice the use of the first person pronoun "I" as God's speaks in Isaiah 41:10. "*Fear thou not; for **I** am with thee: be not dismayed; for **I** am thy God: **I** will strengthen thee; yea, **I** will help thee; yea, **I** will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*"
3. God is not an impersonal influence as some liberals will have you believe, such as love, goodness, and mercy. These are attributes of a personal God. A person is a self-conscious and self-determining being. To be self-conscious is to exercise thought, feeling, and will. God exercises His infinite mind, and knows all things. He loves, which shows He has emotions. He makes choices, exercising His infinite will.

D. God is Righteous.

1. To be "righteous" means "to be morally blameless, to act in a right and upright manner, to do always what is right." Righteousness is often used as a synonym for faithfulness, truthfulness, holiness, or justness. It always means to be right in character, and do right in conduct.
2. God is righteous in His judgment. Deuteronomy 32:4 – "*his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*" God never punishes out of anger or a spirit of vengeance. He disciplines in the right way, at the right time, to the right extent, and for the right purpose.
3. God is righteous in judging man. Psalms 96:13 – "*He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.*" It is right for God to judge man. He made man, and made man accountable to Him. He is right to reward the good and judge the evil. He would not be God revealed in the Bible if He did not judge men.
4. Revelation 19:1-2 – "*And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments:*"

Conclusion: It would take many lessons to come anywhere near doing justice to the doctrine of God. This gives us a small glimpse of what the Bible has to say about the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Saviour of who we believe and trust Him for our salvation.