

# BIG QUESTIONS

WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

## Is God Knowable?

### [Doctrine of God - Theology Proper] Acts 17:22-31

*Big Idea: God has revealed Himself so that we might know Him, worship Him, and reflect Him.*

#### I. God Is Knowable Through His Word

*Try This: Approach Scripture with the question: What does this teach me about God? [Romans 13:14]*

#### II. God's Attributes He Alone Possesses (Incommunicable)

Infinite, Eternal, Unchanging, Sovereign, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent

*Result: His attributes move us to humility and awe in worship. [Romans 8:29, I Cor. 15:49, Psalm 95:1-6]*

#### III. God's Attributes He Shares with Us (Communicable)

Love, Mercy, Holiness, Justice, Faithfulness, Goodness, Wisdom

*Result: Transformation in how we live, love, and relate to others - our families, co-workers, and the rest of our relationships. God's attributes should be reflected in our character.*

#### Application: Knowing God Leads to Loving and Worshiping Him

[Acts 17:22-31] So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, [John 4:22; I Corinthians 15:34] this I proclaim to you. [Acts 17:30] <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, [Isaiah 42:5] being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [Acts 7:47-50] <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. [Job 33:4] <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [Malachi 2:10a, Deuteronomy 32:8] <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, [Deuteronomy 4:7, Psalm 145:18] <sup>28</sup> for

"In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we are indeed his offspring.'  
[Job 12:10, Daniel 5:23]

<sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. [Romans 1:22-23]

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." [Romans 1:1-4]

[Psalm 95:1-6] Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! <sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! <sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

#### Study Questions and Prayer [All questions taken from Are You a Theologian, Chapter 3 - What Is God Like?]

- [1] Which of God's attributes are you most familiar with? Which are less familiar to you? Why?
- [2] Choose one incommunicable attribute and discuss how it increases your understanding of your own limits. How does it increase your love for God? How does it motivate you in worship?
- [3] Choose one communicable attribute and discuss how it increases your understanding of your own limits. How does it increase your love for God? How does it motivate you to worship?
- [4] Choose three incommunicable or communicable attributes of God and write a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.