



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

**An Introduction to Lutheran Doctrine
and the Church of the Lutheran Confession
Lesson 4.1 – The Triune God Revealed in His Word**

IV. The Triune God Revealed In His Word

The creation of the world and the testimony of conscience (natural knowledge) make evident the existence of God. However, the saving knowledge of God is known only through His gracious revelation in Christ recorded in the Bible (revealed knowledge).

Romans 1:18-25: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things ... and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

We confess and worship the Triune (three-in-one) God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this Triune God we find the source and promise of salvation.

Matthew 28:18-19: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Without exception, any other god is an idol that cannot hear, see, or save. This describes false gods worshiped by non-Christians. In the darkness of their wicked hearts, sinners left to themselves follow the errors of idolatry – false worship.

Comments:

There is one way of knowing God that is available to all human beings in this world. This way of knowing God is called the natural knowledge of God. All human beings, using their God-given reason, can conclude from observing the created world that there is a Creator God (or gods) who has unlimited power and wisdom. Human beings are therefore without excuse when they fail to recognize this God and glorify and praise Him for His creation. Rather than praising God, people suppress this truth because of their inherited sinful nature. They foolishly and ignorantly worship and serve creatures instead of the Creator. In other words, they have a religion, but their religion does not honor the only true God. Instead, they invent their God (or gods) to be the way they want them to be.

These man-made religions are nothing but foolishness. The history of the world proves this. Some have worshiped various creatures of God instead of God. For example, people have worshiped the sun, moon, stars, various animals, and human heroes, even though it should be clear that these things are not God. Nevertheless, people have persisted in this kind of false worship.

A current example of such foolishness on the part of those who profess to be wise is the widespread belief that this world came into existence by means of evolution. No one has ever observed one kind of animal or plant evolving into another kind, but people believe this must have happened, because they do not want to believe that there is a God who created all these things. It is simply an impossible fantasy to believe that this complex world, including the complexity of human beings, simply developed by accident over a period of billions of years. There can never be truly scientific evidence that evolution occurred; in fact, what we observe in the world is better explained by what God, the Creator Himself, says in the Bible.

This natural knowledge of God is wonderful as it is, but it is not all that our God wants us to know about Him. This natural knowledge of God cannot save us from our problem of sin and death. Therefore, God, in His love for lost sinners, has revealed Himself more fully in what we call the revealed knowledge of God. This revelation is summarized in the letter to the Hebrews: **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son”** (Hebrews 1:1-2).

In the days before the birth of Jesus, God revealed Himself through the words He gave to the men He chose to be His prophets, such as Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Through these prophets, God clearly revealed Himself as a God of love who was determined to save sinners and would therefore send a Savior or Messiah to our world.

God fulfilled these promises by sending His Son, our Lord Jesus. Jesus is the perfect and complete revelation of God and His will. Jesus identified the true God as being one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18). Moreover, Jesus chose followers to reveal His teaching to the world. He sent these men out as apostles to reveal God and His will to everyone.

God reveals Himself to us by His Word to us through the Old Testament prophets, through the New Testament apostles, and especially through Jesus Himself, who is God’s Word made flesh. **“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him”** (John 1:18).

Questions

1. What is the natural knowledge of God?
2. How do all human beings have access to this knowledge?
3. How long have human beings had access to this knowledge?
4. What do human beings generally do with this knowledge?
5. What do human beings generally worship instead of worshiping God?
6. Why is all man-made worship foolish?
7. Name some humans or animals or things in your culture that have become idols.
8. Why is the theory of evolution a foolish idea?
9. What does the word Triune or Trinity mean?
10. How can we be sure that the true God is the Triune God?
11. How has God revealed Himself to you?