



KNOWING GOD

THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN LIFE

Lesson 3 : GOD'S SELF CONTAINMENT

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"

Genesis 1:1

I. Introduction

II. Self-existence

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

Ps 93:2 Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting

Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God

Arthur Pink: “There was a time, if ‘time’ it could be called, when God, in the unity of His nature (though sustaining equally in three persons), dwelt all alone. There was no heaven, where His glory is now particularly manifested. There was no earth to engage His attention. There were no angels to sing His praises. There was no universe to be upheld by the word of His power. There was nothing, no one, but God; and that not for a day, a year, or an age but “from everlasting,” During a past eternity God was alone – self-contained, self-sufficient, in need of nothing and no one. Had a universe, or angels, or humans been necessary to Him in any way, they also would have been called into existence from all eternity. Creating them as He did added nothing to God essentially. Since He changes not (Mal. 3:6), His essential glory can be neither augmented nor diminished. God was under no constraint, no obligation, and no necessity to create. That He did so was purely a sovereign act on His part, caused by nothing outside of Himself and determined by nothing but His own good pleasure.”

Philosophy and science

Richard Dawkins *I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world.*

III. Self-sufficiency

This means that God has no needs and therefore depends on no one

God has always been satisfied within Himself

John 17:5, And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

God holds all “life” within Himself

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 17:28 "In Him we live and move and have our being"

God cannot be added to

Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

A. W. Tozer “Were all human beings suddenly to become blind, still the sun would shine by day and the stars by night, for these owe nothing to the millions who benefit from their light. So, were every man on earth to become atheist, it could not affect God in any way. He is what He is in Himself without regard to any other. To believe in Him adds nothing to His perfections; to doubt Him takes nothing away.”

Rom 11:34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?

Rom 11:35 Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?

Rom 11:36 *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.*

All from Him – He is the source of everything

All through Him – He is the means of all things

All to Him – He is the goal of all things

IV. Implications of this doctrine

V. Conclusion

*Fountain of good, all blessing flows
From Thee; no want Thy fullness knows;
What but Thyself canst Thou desire?
Yet, self-sufficient as Thou art,
Thou dost desire my worthless heart;
This, only this, dost Thou require.*

Johann Scheffler