



The First Article of the Apostle's Creed

Topic: God

Lesson: Matthew 28:19

Over 95% of the world's population believes in a "higher power." But does that mean that they worship the same God we worship? In this lesson we will look at how the Bible describes the one true God. As we do that, hopefully we will answer the following questions.

- ◆ How can someone know there is a God?
- ◆ What do we mean when we say we have a "Triune God"?

HOW CAN SOMEONE KNOW THERE IS A GOD?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Psalm 19:1-3 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.*

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, *being understood from what has been made*, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 2:14,15 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

- 1) According to the italicized portions of those verses, what is one way that people can tell that there is a God?

From nature

- 2) According to the underlined portions of those

verses, what is another way that people can tell there is a God?

Their conscience

- 3) What does the Bible call someone who says "There is no God!" in spite of all this evidence?

A fool

- 4) (Not based on the passages) Explain the difference between an "atheist" and an "agnostic"?

Atheist—there is no God

Agnostic— we can't know if there is a God or not.

I don't care

When you look at all of creation — the stars, planets, oceans, animals, insects, and mankind — you can see that there must be a God. The following passages describe some of God's characteristics that you can see when you look at nature. Please read through those passages and then list those characteristics of God that we can see in nature.

Acts 14:17 "Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

Characteristic: **kindness**

Psalm 104:24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Characteristic: **wisdom**

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.



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Characteristic: **power and divine nature**

For a truly satisfying knowledge of God we need to look somewhere other than nature or our conscience.

We said that people can not only learn about God from nature, but also from their conscience. The following passages describe what we can learn about God from our conscience.

Romans 1:32 They know God's righteous decree that those who do such things *deserve death*, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 2:14,15 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, *their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing*, now even defending them.

Acts 16:29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

1 Corinthians 2:9 No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 12:3 No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

6) **According to the italicized portions of those passages, what is the only thing about God that our consciences can tell us?**

That we deserve to die because of our sin

7) **According to the underlined portions of those passages, what important piece of knowledge about God are we NOT able to obtain from nature or our conscience?**

That He is a forgiving and saving God

Therefore while we are able to learn about God from both nature and our conscience, the knowledge we get from these things is limited. We sometimes refer to this as "the natural knowledge of God."

John 5:39,40 [Jesus said], "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me."

2 Timothy 3:15 From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

8) **Where is the only place where we can gain a truly satisfying knowledge of God — a knowledge that our relationship with God is good because our sins are forgiven?**

From the Bible



Definition: *This is called the Revealed Knowledge because God to show us these things through the Bible.*

On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, "HOW CAN SOMEONE KNOW THERE IS A GOD?"

From nature, their conscience and from the Bible

DEFINITION: *natural knowledge of God — The knowledge of God's existence that can be obtained by looking at the wonders of creation or by listening to the conscience. This knowledge cannot reveal how we are saved.*





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List the characteristics of God given in these passages:

Job 11:7 limitless, mysterious

John 4:24 he is a spirit, without a physical body

Psalms 90:2 everlasting, or eternal

Malachi 3:6 changeless

Luke 1:37 sure, not a liar, never wrong

1 John 3:20 knows everything

Acts 17:27 close to all of us

Romans 11:33 God's ways are beyond our understanding

1 John 4:8 love

Psalms 103:8 compassionate, gracious

Psalms 107:1 good; enduring love

Isaiah 6:3 holy

2 Timothy 2:13 faithful

Psalms 145:17 righteous; correct

With the family:

Can you give examples from Jesus' life when He showed that He is Almighty? All-knowing?

Calming the storm, raising the dead, healing the sick

Knew Judas would betray him.

Saw Nathaniel sitting under a tree before they met

Knew He would die in Jerusalem

For Next Time:

Complete this review guide

Memorize:

Review Bible books Genesis—Daniel

Review 1st Article and Explanation through "...all my abilities."

