

# An Awesome God

## The Nature of Man

### Lesson 2

The study of the nature of God includes a discussion of misconceptions about that nature and a look at the attributes of God.

#### What Everyone Should Know

Christians learn in Sunday School and church about God and what He is like. The Bible gives a lot of specific information about Him. But what can a person know of God without the Bible.

Look up Psalm 19:1.

What tell us of the "glory of God"? *The heavens*

Now look up Romans 1:18-20.

What two attributes of God are clearly seen just by looking at God's creation?

A. *Eternal Power* B. *divine nature*

There is another way to know of God. That is through the "built-in" indicator given to each man. That indicator is a man's conscience. His conscience is his general sense of right and wrong.

In summary, not including the Bible, what are two ways man has to know there is a God?

A. *natural knowledge* B. *conscience*

What does God say about those who ignore these? Read Romans 1:21-22.

*their thinking becomes futile, foolish hearts are darkened.*

What are those who ignore God and claim to be wise? *fools*

#### A Little Knowledge Is a Dangerous Thing

Even though man can know there is a God without the Bible, the belief system that arises when relying on natural knowledge and conscience alone can end up much different from Christianity.

Before entering a discussion of the erroneous belief systems man has stumbled into over

the years, a short lesson in Greek prefixes is appropriate.

Complete the definitions by choosing from the list at the right.

credo = I believe

a (prefix) = without

dei = god-used here in an impersonal sense

gnosis = to know

pan (prefix) = all

theos = god- used here in a personal sense

poly (prefix) = many

mono (prefix) = one

tri (prefix) = three

all, one, god-personal,  
I believe, three, to know,  
without, god-impersonal,  
many

Use the above terms to match the name of the belief system to its meaning.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <u>c</u> 1. agnostic    | A. One who believes in many gods  |
| <u>e</u> 2. pantheism   | B. A belief in an impersonal creator                                      |
| <u>b</u> 3. deism       | C. One who does not know if there is a god (maybe there is and maybe not) |
| <u>h</u> 4. theism      | D. A statement of what a person believes                                  |
| <u>a</u> 5. polytheist  | E. A belief that all is god   |
| <u>g</u> 6. monotheist  | F. One who believes there is no god                                       |
| <u>i</u> 7. trinitarian | G. One who believes there is only one god                                 |
| <u>d</u> 8. creed       | H. A belief in a personal god   |
| <u>f</u> 9. atheist     | I. One god in three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)                    |

Listen to the tape. Match the character to his/her belief system. (A summary of these beliefs is listed below.)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <u>c</u> Agnostic   | A. Phil Philosopher - We are here by chance. I am the center of my universe.                            |
| <u>a</u> Atheist    | B. Mother Nature - Everything contains god.   |
| <u>f</u> Christian  | C. "Honest" Abe Seeker - I'm not sure there is a god but I hope to find out.                            |
| <u>g</u> Deist      | D. O. T. Believer - I believe in the God of my forefathers. The ten commandments are the way to heaven. |
| <u>d</u> Monotheist |   |
| <u>b</u> Pantheist  | E. Misty Mistique - I worship many gods of ancient cultures. I want to earn their favor.                |
| <u>e</u> Polytheist | F. Emma Wright - I believe in the triune God.   |
|                     | G. Lief A. Loan - God may have created the world, but He is not around now.                             |

### Attributes of the Triune God

Before this discussion can be started, give a definition for the word "attribute."

Something inherent (inborn) in a person or thing; an inseparable property

- List three attributes you have.
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

God has many recognizable attributes. List three.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible reveals many attributes of God. Work the puzzle below to find out what these are. The first nine attributes are rather familiar terms. The last three terms are not as familiar. All three begin with the Latin prefix omni meaning all. Their full meanings are listed below.  
*Unscramble the letters.*

1. God is h o l y (loyh)

2. God is l o v e (voel)
3. God is e t e r n a l (terlane)
4. God is f a i t h f u l (hailtuff)
5. God is g r a c i o u s (crasigou)
6. God is u n c h a n g e a b l e (bleuneagchan)
7. God is j u s t (tujs)
8. God is g o o d (dogo)
9. God is m e r c i f u l (cumerlif)
10. God is (all knowing) O M N I s c i e n t (ntsice)
11. God is (everywhere) O M N I p r e s e n t (stenpre)
12. God is (all powerful) O M N I p o t e n t (topnet)

Look up the following Bible passages. Beside each passage, write the attribute of God described in that passage.

- |                     |                      |                 |                    |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <u>eternal</u>      | 1. Psalm 90:1,2      | <u>good</u>     | 7. Psalm 119:1     |
| <u>unchangeable</u> | 2. Malachi 3:6       | <u>gracious</u> | 8. Exodus 34:6,7   |
| <u>omnipotent</u>   | 3. Matthew 19:26     | <u>love</u>     | 9. Romans 8:38,39  |
| <u>omniscient</u>   | 4. Psalm 139:1-4     | <u>merciful</u> | 10. Jeremiah 3:12  |
| <u>omnipresent</u>  | 5. Jeremiah 23:23,24 | <u>faithful</u> | 11. 2 Timothy 2:13 |
| <u>holy</u>         | 6. Leviticus 19:2    | <u>just</u>     | 12. Deut. 32:4     |