

**Fundamentals, Study 2. The True God (Deut. 10:12-22)**

by BS Poh

o We worship the triune God revealed to us in the Scripture.

1. The Bible reveals to us only one living and true God.<sup>1</sup> He has always existed, and was never created. The power to exist is found in Himself, not from anything or anyone outside of Himself. He is a pure spirit, who is invisible and without physical form. No one can truly understand the essence or substance of His being except Himself.<sup>2</sup> It is ridiculous for anyone to ask for visible proofs of God's existence. We cannot see the wind, but we know that it is there when it blows. We cannot see electricity flowing in a wire, yet we know that it is there when the lamp lights up. We may not have seen the President of America but we believe he is there, from news of what he is doing and saying. We do not have to see God and touch Him with our hands before we believe that He exists. (1. 1 Cor 8:4-6; Deut 6:4-5; 2. Psalm 90:2; John 4:24; Exod 3:14)

2. God is not a mere force, or power, or influence. He is a person, although not a human being.<sup>3</sup> He is infinite (i.e. limitless) and perfect (i.e. with no moral defect or shortcoming) in His being and character. God is powerful, immortal (i.e. incapable of dying), unchanging, holy, wise, and just.<sup>4</sup> He hates all sin, and will punish those who rebel against Him, offend Him, and break His law. God is also loving, gracious, merciful, patient, good, and true. He forgives sinful people who sincerely turn to seek Him. He rewards those who trust and obey Him.<sup>5</sup> (3. Exod 3:14; 1 Thess 1:9; 4. Gen 17:1; Isa 6:3; Mal 3:6; Rom 11:33; 5. Exod 34:6-7; Heb 11:6)

3. In this living and true God there are three Persons - the Father, the Word or the Son, and the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup> The Father did not come into existence from any other being. The Son is eternally begotten of (i.e. eternally derived from) the Father. The Holy Spirit proceeds from (i.e. comes from) the Father and the Son.<sup>8</sup> Each Person is distinct and completely God - in substance, power, and eternity (i.e. timelessness). Yet, there is only one God, who cannot be divided in His nature and being.<sup>9</sup> How this can be is beyond human comprehension, but it is a truth clearly revealed to us in the Bible. This truth is called the doctrine of *the Trinity*. (7. 1 John 5:7; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 8. John 1:14, 18; 15:26; Gal 4:6; 9. Exod 3:14; Mark 12:29; John 14:11; 1 Cor 8:6)

4. The doctrine of the Trinity is of the utmost importance to us. *Firstly*, we depend on it to understand the meaning and purpose of life. The three Persons of the Godhead relate to one another in a familiar way, showing that it is God's desire to know and to be known. Until we

enter into a personal relationship with Him, life will be meaningless.<sup>10</sup> *Secondly*, the doctrine teaches us what the true God is like. He is our Creator, and we owe Him worship, service, and obedience. This we have failed to do, thus incurring His wrath. Mercy, forgiveness, and blessings can be found only in Him.<sup>11</sup> *Thirdly*, the doctrine reveals to us the God who is Father to His chosen people. An adopted son who is seeking to know his true biological father will want to be certain who he really is. Any so-called god other than the Trinity is not the one true God. The true God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible so that we may know Him personally.<sup>12</sup> (10. Matt 17:5; Eccl 3:11; 11. Acts 17:29-31; Rom 3:22-24; 12. Rom 8:14-16; 1 Thess 1:6, 9-10.)

= Let us seek to know the one true God, who is revealed to us in the Bible.

### **Review Questions**

1. State some truths about the one true God.
2. Why is it ridiculous to ask for visible proofs of the existence of God?
3. Although God is without human form, what error about Him must we guard against?
4. Since God is powerful, holy and just, what is His response to sin?
5. God is also loving, gracious and merciful. What is His response to those who seek Him?
6. What is the relationship of the Son to the Father, and the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son?
7. State the first reason why the doctrine of the Trinity is so important to us.
8. State the second reason why the doctrine of the Trinity is so important to us.
9. State the third reason why the doctrine of the Trinity is so important to us.
10. Why is the one god of any other religion not the God of the Bible?

### **Assignment/Discussion**

Is seeking to know the one true God the same as worshipping a god different from what is revealed in the Scripture? What is the difference between knowing about God and having a living relationship with Him? See Acts 4:12; 17:22-31; Rom. 1:18-25.

### **Memory Passage (Exod 34:6-7)**

6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

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