

# Session One—The Nature of God

## Trinity

### The Greatest Mystery

- Romans 11:33—Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

### Attributes

- *Spirit*
  - John 4:24—“God is spirit.”
- *Eternal*
  - Psalm 90:1-2—Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
  - 1 Timothy 1:17—To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
- *All-knowing*
  - John 21:17—“Lord, you know all things.”
  - Psalm 139:1-4—O Lord, you have searched me and know me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
- *Holy*
  - Leviticus 19:2—“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”
  - Isaiah 6:3—“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”
- *Good*
  - Psalm 118:1—Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!
  - Psalm 145:9—The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- *Merciful*
  - Jeremiah 3:12—“I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful.”
  - Titus 3:5—He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy...
- *Gracious*
  - Exodus 34:6-7—The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping his steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”
- *Love*
  - John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
  - 1 John 4:8—God is love.

### Changeless in will and essence (652.75)

- Psalm 102:27—You are the same, and your years have no end.
- James 1:17—Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- 2 Timothy 2:13—If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.
- Malachi 3:6—“For I the Lord do not change.”

#### **Omnipresent and in all creatures (629.68)**

- Jeremiah 23:24—Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.
- Colossians 2:9—For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

#### **Almighty power of God fills heaven and earth (621.28)**

- Genesis 17:1—“I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless.”
- Psalm 93:1—The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.
- Mark 16:19-20—So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
- Matthew 28:18—“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.”

#### **Grasped only through the Word (131.67)**

- Romans 10:17—So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

#### **Does not will evil (642.6)**

- Psalm 5:4—For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

#### **Foreknowledge (517.4, 641.4)**

- Psalm 139:16—Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.
- Matthew 10:29—“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”
- Isaiah 37:28—“I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me.”

#### **Wills that we should truly fear, love, trust, call upon, thank, praise, serve, and obey (88-89.49, 121.8, 140.124-125, 141.130, 351.2, 386.4, 433.19)**

- Matthew 19:17—“Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”
- Romans 3:31—Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.
- Deuteronomy 6:5—“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
- Exodus 20:3—“You shall have no other gods before me.”

#### **Wants to be honored and worshiped (128.49, 130.60)**

- Psalm 50:15—“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

#### **Wills no one's damnation (195.51-53, 215.158)**

- Isaiah 28:21—For the Lord will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed—strange is his deed! and to work his work—alien is his work.
- Ezekiel 18:23—“Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?”
- Ezekiel 18:32—“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”