

In the HOUSE *of the* LORD

LESSON #1 – THE INVOCATION

Is there a God?

Before we can worship God, we should first of all learn if God exists. What does the Bible say about where humans can know there is a God?

- Hebrews 3:4 *For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.*
- Psalm 19:1-2 *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.*

What does the Bible say about where else humans can know there is a God?

- Romans 2:14-15 *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,¹⁵ 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.*

The Bible says that there is a problem with learning about God only from nature or from conscience. What is that problem?

- 1 Corinthians 1:20 *Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?*
- 1 Corinthians 2:11 *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*
- Isaiah 55:8-9 *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Nature and conscience tell us that God exists. But they do not tell us who the true God is or how much He loves us. We learn about those things in the Bible – God's Word to His beloved people.

Key Words:

Natural Knowledge of God:

What I can know about God from nature and conscience.

Revealed Knowledge of God:

What I can know about God only from the Bible (that Jesus is my Savior and that God is Triune.)

The Weakness of the Natural Knowledge of God

Read Acts 17:16-23. How did the people of Athens show their natural knowledge of God?

To which god had the Athenians even set up an altar? (v 23) Why?

Read Acts 17:27. Why did God give us the natural knowledge of Himself?

The natural knowledge of God isn't enough. Our natural knowledge doesn't tell us about who God is. Nor does it tell us about what he has done for us through our Savior.

From where does God reveal Himself to us?

- John 5:39 *These are the Scriptures that testify about me.*
- 2 Timothy 3:15-17 *From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

God reveals Himself to us

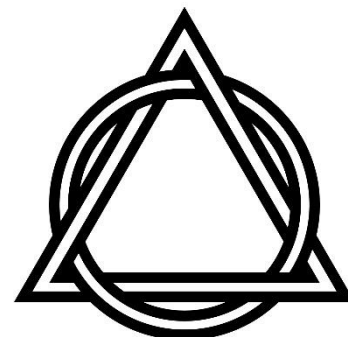
How many gods are there?

- Isaiah 45:22 *"Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.*
- Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

Who is the true God?

- Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- Genesis 1:2 *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*
- Matthew 28:19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

This doctrine/teaching is called the mystery of the Trinity. We do not try to explain it or understand it. It is not logical or mathematically sound. We simply believe it because that's how God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible.



Working in unison and unity, our Triune God created all things. What does that mean concerning how we live our daily lives?

- Psalm 100:3 *Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*
- Psalm 139:13-14 *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

What might get in the way of worshiping our one true God?

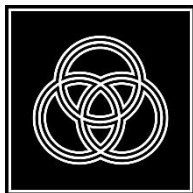
- 1 John 2:15 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- Psalm 62:10 *Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.*
- Matthew 10:37 *Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*
- Proverbs 3:5 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*
- Exodus 20:4-5 *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them."*

How does Jesus, the second person of the Triune God, save us from our sins of not worshiping the one true God?

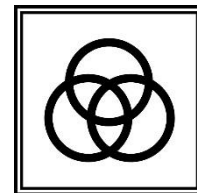
- Matthew 17:5 *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*
- Romans 5:19 *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*
- 1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*

How do we want to act toward God now that we know that He is our Creator who made us; He is our Redeemer who saved us; and He is our Sanctifier who brought us to faith in Him?

- Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- 1 Samuel 12:24 *But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.*



*Sing to the Lord
praise his name
proclaim his salvation
day after day*



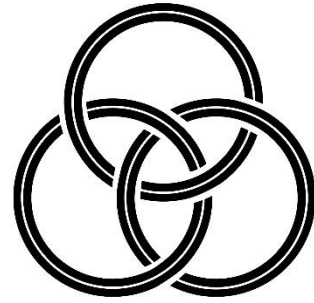
Our Triune God desires and deserves our worship.

The true God is the Triune God – Three Persons but only one Being.

The _____ who is also called _____

The _____ who is also called _____

The _____ who is also called _____



The Bible does not attempt to explain the Trinity. From the opening pages of the Bible, to the very end, God simply proclaims that He is three persons in one God. That is what He does in the beginning of our worship services with the Invocation.

The Invocation

The word “invocation” means the act of calling on someone to perform a specialized task. With the invocation for the worship service, we are calling upon God to be present in our worship.

THE INVOCATION FOR THE DIVINE SERVICE

Minister: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

THE INVOCATION FOR THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

What is the similarity between the two invocations of the two worship services?

How does the beginning of our worship service imitate the beginning of the Bible?

- Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

What does it mean to do something in the name of someone?



When did God put His name on you?

- Matthew 28:19 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

From God’s Word, we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. Where does God desire for us to use His name and be in His presence?

- Matthew 18:20 *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

Closing Prayer

A hymn that teaches the faith: Christian Worship #193 – “Come, Now, Almighty King”

*Come, now, almighty King; Help us your name to sing;
Help us to praise.*

*Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.*

*Come, now, incarnate Word; Put on your mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.*

*Come and your people bless, And give your Word success;
Grant us your righteousness, Savior and Friend.*

*Come, holy Comforter; Your sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.*

*Your sev'nfold gifts impart; Now rule in ev'ry heart;
Never from us depart, Spirit of Pow'r.*

*To the great One in Three Eternal praises be
Forevermore!*

*His sov'reign majesty May we in glory see
And to eternity Love and adore.*

