

THEOLOGICAL VOCABULARY LIST

A

ABSOLUTE PERFECTION - A moral attribute of God. Means flawless or excellent.

ABIDING - Means to remain, to stay in a place, to hold fast, or to remain steadfast to the goal. This word is found 40 times in the Gospel of John and is used 24 times in the Epistle of 1 John. Abiding with God is based on humbling myself before God and allowing God and His rule to rule over me (THEOCRACY) in my relationship with Him. Deut. 11:22-28, John 15:1-8. **See THEOCRACY**

ACTUALITY – that which actually exists, as opposed to what only potentially exists. **See Pure Actuality of God.**

ADOPTION - Means the giving to any one the name and place and privileges of a son who is not a son by birth. Signifies the place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not naturally belong. The word is used by the Apostle Paul only.

In Rom 8:15, believers are said to have received "the Spirit of adoption," that is, the Holy Spirit who, given as the First fruits of all that is to be theirs, produces in them the realization of sonship and the attitude belonging to sons.

AEVI-ETERNITY – Defines how angels can dwell in time and then dwell outside of time. Angels can dwell in time and then can dwell in outside of time in the presence of God. Because angels can only be in one place in time, angels are the only one who can exist this way.

ANALOGICAL – means to apply them to God (Trinitarian monotheism) and man in a similar way. Does not mean identical to or totally different from.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM – Speaking or describing God in human terms. These terms about God are not to be taken literally. God has wings (Exodus 19:4), God has eyes (Hebrews 4:13), God has arms (Numbers 11:23), or that God repented (Genesis 6:6).

ASEITY, ATTRIBUTE OF – Literally means "of Oneself". Used of God, it denotes that God exist in of Himself, independent of anything else. God is self-existent.

ASSURANCE - Theologically, assurance is the state of being confident in a condition or outcome. This assurance is given by the Holy Spirit and the bible.

We have this assurance in Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Usually, it is applied to one's assurance of salvation. Texts often used to support assurance of salvation are.

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 1 John 5:13 - "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."

People will often doubt that their salvation for a variety of reasons, it is at these times when the true believer needs assurance. When a believer commits sin, it should be followed by repentance, as one goes to the cross again for the forgiveness of sins.

ATONEMENT - Atonement theologically speaks of God's acting in human history to reestablish the original relationship between God and man by dealing with Sin. To atone means to make amends, to repair a wrong done. Biblically, it means to remove guilt of man.

The Old Testament atonements offered by the high priest were temporary and a fore shadow of the real and final atonement made by Jesus. Jesus atoned for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). This atonement is received by faith (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9).

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD – Means some characteristics that can be attributed to God's nature or an essential trait of God. Also, whatever attribute describes God, He is 100% of that attribute. God is love; God is 100% love, justice etc.

We define God's attributes, we must not talk about them as if God's attributes were different parts of His essence, but that God's attributes are His essence, and His essence are His attributes. We recognize that each attribute is compatible with all his other attributes and that each attribute speaks of who He is. Other terms for an attribute are property, perfection, or name.

ATTRIBUTES MORAL – There are six basic moral attributes of God: Holiness, justice, jealousy, perfection, truthfulness and goodness (love). These are essential to God's nature. Moral deals with what ought to be, what God is infinitely and what man can possess finitely.

ATTRIBUTES NON-MORAL – Which are also called metaphysical attributes or literal attributes. Non-moral deals with who God is and what we are not and can never be.

B

BACKSLIDING FALL AWAY - Condition that results from spiritual apathy or disregard for the things of God, whether on the part of an individual or a group bound by a prior covenantal pledge of commitment to uphold the doctrine and commandments of the Lord.

Backsliding includes departure from a good confession of faith and from the ethical standards prescribed for God's people in the Scriptures. To varying degrees, depending on the extent of neglect of God and his commandments, the spiritually wayward experience a season of estrangement and abandonment from God and his people.

The word “fall away” is a very interesting word. The word means to fall, fail, of a ship not under control, to depart, to cause revolt, rebellion, abandonment, state of apostasy, defection, bill of divorce. In instances of apostasy when one spurns the grace of God by renouncing the blessings of the covenant.

Jeremiah 49:4, Why do you boast in the valleys, Your flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? Who trusted in her treasures, saying, ‘Who will come against me?’ References are often sighted dealing with backsliding are Mark 13:16 - "and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak."

Luke 9:62 -"But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” *John 6:66 - "As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore."*

Hebrews 4:4-6 - For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

James 5:19-20 - 19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

BEATIFIC (BLESSED) VISION - is the experience of seeing God face to face. Beatific It is the ultimate aesthetic (concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty) experience of seeing God face to face (Rev. 22:4).

Because God in His glory is so beautiful, to see God would take your breath away that it would kill you, so to see God will only be experienced after we go into eternity, and we will be in the sight of seeing Jesus in His ultimate, infinite and unadulterated beauty. See GOD’S BEAUTY.

BLESSINGS FROM GOD – Means that God is 100% blessing to His creation. The blessings always come to these that are in a right relationship with God and the blessing are there, but these those that reject God reject His blessings also. **See attributes of God**

BORN AGAIN – Means to be born from above. The term Born Again refers to new birth enjoyed by Christians upon conversion and regeneration. It is a work of the Holy Spirit within a believer. It is related to faith in Christ and Him crucified (John 3:3-5).

It means that the person is no longer dead in sins (Eph. 2:1), no longer spiritually blind (1 Cor. 2:14), and is now a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). When we define being born from above, we can define it as someone who now has a personal relationship with the Living God.

C

CARNAL, CARNALLY, FLESH - "Having the nature of flesh," sensual, controlled by fleshly appetites, governed by human nature, instead of by the Spirit of God. Living in such a way that does not please God and contradicts the word of God. They are represented as of a "carnal mind, which is enmity against God" (Rom. 8:6,7).

Enjoyments that minister to the wants and desires of man's fleshly nature are so called (Rom. 15:27, 1 Cor. 9:11). The ceremonial of the Mosaic law is spoken of as "carnal," because it related to things outward, the bodies of men and of animals, and the purification of the flesh (Heb. 7:16; 9:10).

Anyone living this type of lifestyle without repenting will be separated from a relationship with God. *Romans 8:6 - For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Galatians 5:21 - envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. See walking in the flesh.

CAUSE – The necessary and sufficient condition for an effect.

CHAPTERS AND VERSES – The earliest bibles have no chapter and verse divisions. These were added for convenience in quoting the scriptures. Stephen Langton, a professor at the University of Paris and later Archbishop of Canterbury, divided the bible into chapters in 1227. Verses to the bible were added in 1551 and 1555 by Robert Stephanus, a Paris printer.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD – Means some characteristics that can be attributed to God's nature or an essential trait of God. Other terms for an attribute are property, perfection, or name. Also, See Attributes of God.

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES - Communicable attributes are those that God can communicate with us. Be you holy for God is holy.

CONTINGENT BEING - Dependent on another for its existence or function and is dependent on a Necessary Being for its existence.

COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT – (1) Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence, either in the necessity of its own nature or in an external cause.

(2) If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.

(3) The universe exists.

(4) Therefore, the explanation of the universe's existence is God.

COUNTER FACTUAL – Means that God knows what will be and He knows what could be. This is called middle knowledge.

CREATION OF GOD – God is the cause of creation and not the effect of creation. The effect is finite, (the universe and the world) and the cause (God) is infinite.

CROSS - A Cross is an ancient execution device, on which people were said to be crucified. The Roman's had several instruments that were called crosses. When a person underwent crucifixion, they died of suffocation.

One of the more common types of crosses had a single vertical stake with a cross member near or at the top by which a person is either nailed and/or tied with outstretched arms.

Orthodox Christianity holds that Jesus was nailed to a cross and not a stake. In John 20:25; Thomas stated that he would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead unless he saw "...in His hands the imprint of the nails..." A cross would require at least two nails, one for each outstretched hand.

CULT - A Cult is a religious group that follows a particular unorthodox theological system. In the context of Christianity, it is a group that attempts to correct and change the view of historical Christianity and nature of God in relation to man.

It is a group that uses the Bible with a new revelation from God, a private interpretation, but also distorts the doctrines of the person of Jesus and that affect salvation sufficiently to cause salvation to be unattainable by faith.

A few examples of cults are Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Christadelphians, Unity, Religious Science, The Way International, and the Moonies.

D

DEPRAVATION, DEPRAVITY - Depravity is the moral corruption and sinfulness of man after the fall. It is from the Latin term *depravare*, which means to make corrupt. We believe that all are sinners (Romans 3:23) and unable by human performance to earn, deserve, or merit salvation (Titus 3:5).

We believe that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and that apart from God's grace, no one can be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9). We believe that none are righteous, or capable of doing good (Romans 3:10-12), and that apart from the conviction and regeneration of the Holy Spirit, none can be saved (John 1:12-13; 16:8-11; 1 Peter 1:23-25).

Mankind is clearly fallen and lost in sin, yet man is not totally deprived from knowledge of God. The bible teaches that man in a falling state can still choose to except or reject the calling from God.

Acts 7:51 - "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

E

ELECT, ELECTION, PREDESTINATION - The elect are those called by God to salvation. This calling occurs before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4) and is according to God's will.

We believe that God chose the believer before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-6), and based on His foreknowledge, has predestined the believer to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29-30).

God knows in advance who would or will respond to His love and grace, and these He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. We believe that God offers salvation to all who will call on His name. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

We also believe that God calls to Himself those who will believe in His Son, Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 1:9). However, the Bible also teaches that an invitation (or call) is given to all, but that only a few will accept it. We also read that man has the capacity to resist the calling of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 7:51 - "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

We see this balance throughout scripture. Revelation 22:17 states, "*And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*" 1 Peter 1:2 tells us we are, "elect according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

Matthew 22:14 says, "*For many are called, but few are chosen* (elected)." God clearly does choose, but man must also accept God's invitation to salvation. **See FREEWILL, FREE MORAL AGENT, IF**

EQUIVOCAL — Equivocally – means to use them of God and man in an entirely different way. (Opposed to Univocal).

ESSENCE — what something is as opposed to existence (that something exists); its nature as distinct from its being.

ETERNAL LIFE - Eternal life is the life everlasting in the presence of God. "This is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent," (John 17:3). There are two senses in which this is used. First, Christians possess eternal life (1 John 5:13), yet they are not in heaven or in the immediate presence of God.

Though man is still in their mortal bodies and he still sins, however, by faith man is saved (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9) and possess eternal life as a free gift from God (Rom. 6:23).

EVIL - Evil is not something that has an existence all its own; rather, it is a corruption of that which already exists (marital things created or the thoughts of beings). Evil is the absence or privation (a state in which things that are essential for human well-being such as food and warmth are scarce or lacking) of something good.

Rot, for example, can exist only as long as the tree exists. Tooth decay can exist only as long as the tooth exists. Rust on a car and a decaying carcass illustrate the same point. Evil exists but does not have essence by itself.

God does not promote evil so that it will stop, God permits evil so that it will stop or to achieve a greater good. God is love and is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9), but God will one day defeat evil, a new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21).

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN - Evil or wickedness is a larger subject. Evil is all that is hurtful and harmful, whether as to cause or affect, whether material, mental, or moral.

F

FAITH – TRUST - Heb. 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Faith should be understood as synonymous with trust in something. Within Christianity, It is a divine gift. (Rom. 12:3)

And comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). It is the means by which the grace of God is accounted to the believer who trusts in the work of Jesus on the cross (Eph. 2:8). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). It is by faith that Christians live their lives, "The righteous shall live by faith," (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17).

FINITE - Having specific boundaries, limits, or potentials. Any and all created beings are contingent.

FIRSTBORN - Firstborn is reference to the first of the mother's offspring. It stands figuratively for that which is most excellent. The firstborn male of the family carried certain familial rites and privileges (Gen. 27:1-29; 48:13-14) and was given a double portion of the inheritance (Deut. 21:17).

The term is also applied to Christ as the pre-eminent one and the first one raised from the dead (Col. 1:15,18). It does not mean first created as Jehovah's Witnesses believe. In fact, the firstborn rites were transferable as with Esau and Jacob. Compare Jer. 31:9 with Gen. 41:50-52.

FLESH, LIVING IN - Living in such a way that does not please God and that this lifestyle contradicts the word of God.

FOREKNOW, FOREKNOWLEDGE, ALL KNOWLEDGE - It is God's knowledge about things that will happen. Past, present, and future are all "present" in the mind of God. He inhabits eternity (Isaiah 57:15). God has infinite knowledge (Isaiah 41:22,23) and knows all things in advance. In the N.T. it does not always mean "to know beforehand" but also to cause to be. See 1 Pet. 1:2,20.

FREEWILL, FREE MORAL AGENT, IF - Free will is the freedom of self-determination and action independent of external causes. It is the ability to make choices. A choice is free if it is consistent with a person's desires and nature.

Free will is the position that man's free will is not restricted by his sinful nature, in that he is not enslaved by sin such that he only chooses sinful things, and that he can freely choose to accept or reject God despite his enslavement to sin.

It also states that an unsaved sinner is still able to freely choose God in spite of his sinful nature (John 3:16; 3:36, Ephesians 1:13). A person who has a personal freewill, and what is a freewill? It is a person who is able to make a choice, without the will of another.

It is a person who is self-governing without the control of another. And we as humans need to have a will to choose and to have the capacity to comprehend the difference between right and wrong choices. And with freewill, it can also be a blessing or a curse.

God's greatest expression of love to us is that God has given to us freewill. The word "if" is used as a conditional clause for freewill and is used 1595 times in the KJV bible.

G

GOD'S BEAUTY – The essence of beauty is: that which is being perceived pleases. As applied to God, beauty is the essential attribute of goodness that produces in the beholder a sense of overwhelming pleasure and delight.

To see God, face to face would overwhelm a person to the point of death. **See BEATIFIC (BLESSED) VISION.**

GOD (LIMITS ON GOD'S KNOWLEDGE) - God cannot know what is impossible to know. God does not know what cannot be. God cannot know what is contradictory. God is a rational Being, and as such, God cannot know what is irrational or contradictory.

GOD'S MAJESTY – Means God's unsurpassed greatness, highest eminence, unparalleled exaltation, and unmatched glory.

GOD (WHAT GOD KNOWS) - God knows all things, past, present, and future. He knows all things actual and potential. God knows what will be and what could be. God cannot be wrong with anything He knows. God's knowledge is infallible.

GOD (WHO IS GOD) – beginning-less, uncaused, timeless, space-less, immaterial, all-powerful, personal, and personal creator of the universe.

GOSPEL - Gospel is a term used over 75 times in the New Testament. While it has various nuances of meaning, it primarily means "good news." According to the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology edited by Walter Elwell, "the gospel is the joyous proclamation of God's redemptive activity in Christ Jesus on behalf of man enslaved by sin."

GRACE - Biblically, grace is unmerited favor. It is God's free action for the benefit of His people. It is different than Justice and Mercy. Justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is not getting what we deserve.

Grace is getting what we do not deserve. In grace we get eternal life, something that, quite obviously, we do not deserve. But because of God's love and kindness manifested in Jesus on the cross, we receive the great blessing of redemption.

H

HOLINESS - Theologically, God's holiness means that He is totally and utterly set apart from all creation and evil.

HOMIOUSIAN - (hoh-moi-oo-see-uh-n) a belief that maintained that the essence of the Son is similar to, but not the same as, that of the Father. At the Council of Nicaea (325AD), they condemned Arianism, which taught that Christ was more than human but not fully divine. – Unbiblical view.

HOMOIOUSIAN - (hoh-moh-oo-see-uh-n) the key term of the Christological doctrine formulated at the first ecumenical council, at Nicaea in 325, to affirm that God the Son and God the Father are of the same substance. It is a theological doctrine holding that Christ is of one substance with God. – Biblical view

HYPOSTATIC UNION – Means sediment, foundation, substance, or subsistence. It is a technical term in Christian theology employed in mainstream Christology to describe the union of Christ's humanity and divinity in one hypostasis. ("Person" Hebrews 1:2-3) Is set forth officially in the definition of faith produced by the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, concerns the union of the two natures of deity and humanity in one hypostasis or person of Jesus Christ.

The term Hypostatic Union is a critical doctrine in Christology. The word Hypostatic is a Bible Word meaning that it is derived from the original language of Scripture (Hebrews 1:2-3).

Hebrews 1:2-3 - has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His "person" (Hypostasis or Hypostatic), and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (See HOMOIOUSIAN)

I

IMMANENCE (OF GOD) - God is above and beyond all creation and the whole world. That which is more than our experience or goes beyond the world. Theists say God is transcendent because He is outside of or beyond nature. See transcendent.

IMMATERIALITY – God is Spirit. God does not have any material parts. God is not composed of matter, nor is He corporeal (made of a body).

IMMENSITY – God is not measurable. God is not in space, time or matter, since He existed before the material space-time world, and brought it into existence.

IMMORTALITY - Means without death, never dies, imperishable, and incorruptible. God alone is immortality and all others who have it, have it as a gift from God.

IMMUTABILITY – God does not change or is unchanging. God never loses His own integrity or lets others down. Because God is self-sufficient, He is impassibility.

IMPASSIBILITY OF GOD – Means that God is not subject to passion or suffering from humans and their lifestyles. God does have feelings, but that His feelings cannot undergo changing feelings; that is, God cannot change.

Man cannot change God or His mind. God does not need anything or anyone. *All passion involves a desire for what is lacking.* And since God is perfect God lacks nothing. God will not be moved by our lives or lifestyle choices.

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES - Are attributes that God has and that cannot be communicated to man. God cannot communicate meta-physical attributes to man. No place in the bible does it say for us to be infinite, for only God is infinite.

INEFFABILITY – Means incapable of being expressed.

INERRANCY OF THE SCRIPTURES – Means that in its original autographs the bible contains no mistakes in the original languages in which it was written.

INFINITY – Means God is literally limitless in His being. God is without boundaries. God is beyond the limits of the created universe.

INFINITE - not finite or limited, having no boundaries.

J

JEALOUSY – Means to be desirous of, to be zealous about, to be excited to anger over, and to execute judgment because of. We discover why jealousy is a sin to us and moral attribute of God.

Jealousy is sin to us because when we crave or are jealous of something, it is because it does not belong to us. God's Jealousy is based on God judgement to protect His Holy Name. God cannot crave because everything already belongs to Him.

JEHOVAH - Jehovah is a Latinization of the Hebrew name YHWH. The name arose among Christians in the Middle Ages through the combination of the consonants YHWH (JHVH) with the vowels of Adonai ("My Lord").

The name Jehovah was first created in the 13th century by the Catholic monk Raymundus Martini in 1278, in his work Pugio Fidei. The name Jehovah is not a Greek or Hebrew word, It is a Latin word, Old Testament Jews did not speak Latin. **See YHWH**

JUSTIFICATION - JUSTIFY – JUSTIFIED – JUSTIFIER – JUST - Justification is the declaring of a person to be just or righteous. It is plain from the New Testament teaching throughout that justification comes to the sinner by the atoning work of Jesus and that this is applied to the individual sinner by faith.

K

KALAM COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT – (1) Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
(2) The universe began to exist.
(3) Therefore, the universe has a cause.

L

LIFE – Theologically, to speak of God as life is to say two basic things: God is alive, and He is the source of all other life.

LIGHT – Means God is the Great Illuminator and or the Radiant One.

LOVE – When we define that God is love, we would define God as possessing love, but that God is love.

M

METAPHYSICS – means *beyond the physical*, *Physics* means *physical* and is the study of being or reality. It is the study in the discipline in philosophy which answers such questions as with what is real. Having to do with being or reality.

METAPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES – Also are called literal or non-moral attributes.

METAPHORS – There are several reasons for using metaphorical expressions of God.

(1) metaphors often inform us what God can do, not what He is like. They often describe His abilities, not His attributes.

(2) metaphors communicate what God is like in an indirect and non-literal way.

We know God is not a stone, since we know that God is an infinite Spirit, and a stone can be neither infinite nor a spirit. But once we know that God is not literally a stone, a metaphor does tell us what he literally is, namely, stable and immovable. **See ANTHROPOMORPHISM**

MORAL ARGUMENT – (1) If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.

(2) Objective moral values and duties do exist.

(3) Therefore, God exist.

MORALITY – having to do with thought and behavior that one ought to do as opposed to what one actually does, a duty or obligation.

N

NECESSITY BEING - A Necessary Being is one whose non-existence is impossible; that is, if a necessary Being exists, then He must exist necessarily. God is the beginning-less Beginner.

NEED OR NECESSITY, ARGUMENT – My favorite argument that man cannot live without God.

C.S. Lewis - Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well there is such a thing as water.

1) Everyone really needs God.

2) What does not exist, man does not crave: unicorns and leprechauns.

3) What we really need, really exists.

4) Everyone doesn't get everything they want (a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow).

5) Everyone doesn't get everything they need (people die of thirst and hunger).

6) But what we really need, really exists, water, food, and God.

Former Atheist Francis Collins - "Why would such a universal and uniquely human hunger for God exist, if it were not connected to some opportunity for fulfillment?"

An infinite thirst will never be satisfied by anything that is temporal.

NON-MORAL CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD - There are also some non-moral traits that characterize God; these involve how God, in His essential attribute, relates to His creatures.

NON-TEMPORALITY – Means non-temporality or timelessness. Classical theism affirms that God is above and beyond time. Again, God has no past, present, or future; He simply has an enduring eternal present. See Eternality.

O

OMNI-BENEVOLENCE – Means all-lovingness. If love can be defined as “willing the good of its object or all good,” then love and goodness can be treated synonymously. Theologically, God’s Omni-benevolence refers to His infinite or unlimited goodness.

OMNIPOTENCE – God is almighty or all-powerful. It means that God has unlimited power. Comes from the Hebrew word “Shaddai” which means self-sufficient or almighty.

OMNI-PRESENCE – All of God is everywhere present at once. Not that God is in everything, but everywhere. We must always remember that God is 100% present everywhere at once.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 - “Am I a God near at hand,” says the Lord, “And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?” says the Lord; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.

OMNI-SAPIENCE OR WISDOM – All-wise. It is God’s unerring ability to choose the best means to the best ends. **See Wisdom**

OMNISCIENCE – Is the most debated in the church today. God knows everything and knows all free acts of man, past, present and future.

He knows the actual and the possible; only the impossible (the contradictory) is outside the knowledge of God. God does not have foreknowledge because God is already there. We use the word foreknowledge to describe the events of God.

ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT, THE – (1) It is possible that a maximally great being (God) exists.

(2) If it is possible that a maximally great being exists, then a maximally great being exists in some possible world.

(3) If a maximally great being exists in some possible world, then it exists in every possible world.

(4) If a maximally great being exists in every possible world, then it exists in the actual world.

(5) Therefore, a maximally great being exists in the actual world.

(6) Therefore, a maximally great being exists.

(7) Therefore, God exists.

ONTOLOGY – The branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being. See Metaphysics.

P

PREDESTINATION, ELECT, ELECTION - God knows in advance who would or will respond by freewill to His love and grace, and it is these He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

The Bible clearly teaches that God does not desire a small group of elect to be saved, but that God desires all to be saved and that God has made salvation available to all who will call out to Him.

Matthew 22:14 - "For many are called, but few are chosen."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

PREDESTINATION DOUBLE (CALVINIST VIEW) - or the double decree, is the doctrine that God actively reprobates, or decrees damnation of some, as well as salvation for those whom he has elected. This means the eternal decree of God, by which he determined with himself whatever he wished to happen with regard to every man.

All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation; and, accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of those ends, we say that he has been predestined to life or death. John Calvin - Institutes of the Christian Religion.

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION - God does not reveal all His truth at once, but God is revealing truth one step at a time in the Old Testament. Progressive Revelation end with the completion of the book of Revelation.

PROVIDENCE – means God who can control everything can also provide for all things, since He has, by virtue of His complete control, the resources necessary to providentially provide for everything. The argument for providence from God's sovereignty can be stated as follows:

- (1) God's sovereignty means He controls all things.
- (2) He who controls all can also provide for all things.
- (3) Sovereignty guarantees the possibility of God's providential care for all things.
- (4) It can be stated that providence is God's sovereignty in action.

PSEUDO RELIGION, OR PSEUDO THEOLOGY - is a generally negative term when applied to a non-mainstream belief system or philosophy which is functionally like to a religious movement, typically having a founder, text, ritual and faith-based beliefs.

PURE ACTUALITY – Means God’s pure existence or Self Existence. Pure Actuality is the attribute from which the other metaphysical attributes can be drawn logically, although they all have a biblical basis on their own.

Is meant that which is an act or that which is (existence) with no possibility to not exist or to be anything other than it is (existence), pure and simple. Pure actuality has no potential of any kind, to say nothing of the potential to cease to exist. It is a pure act.

Q

QUINTESSENTIAL MAN – Defined as perfection in its own class. When defining man, it is meant to define Jesus above all men and that Jesus is more than a man because of His deity.

R

REDEMPTION – REDEEMED - Finding its context in the social, legal, and religious customs of the ancient world, the metaphor of redemption includes the idea of loosening from a bond, setting free from captivity or slavery. Buying back something lost or sold, exchanging something in one's possession for something possessed by another, and ransoming.

RIGHTEOUSNESS – RIGHTEOUS OR JUSTICE - Means to be just or right. Theologically, it refers to the intrinsic characteristic of God wherein He is absolutely just or right and is the ultimate standard of justice and rightness.

God the Father is righteous (just); Jesus Christ his Son is the Righteous (Just) One; the Father through the Son and in the Spirit gives the gift of righteousness (justice) to repentant sinners for salvation.

Such believing sinners are declared righteous (just) by the Father through the Son, are made righteous (just) by the Holy Spirit working in them and will be wholly righteous (just) in the age to come. ***See Justice.***

S

SANCTIFICATION – SANCTIFIED, SANCTIFY - To sanctify means to be set apart for a holy use. God has set us apart for the purpose of sanctification not impurity (1 Thess. 4:7) and being such, we are called to do good works (Eph. 2:10).

Christians are to sanctify Christ as Lord in their hearts (1 Pet. 3:15). God sanctified Israel as His own special nation (Ezek. 27:28). People can be sanctified (Exodus 19:10,14) and so can

a mountain (Exodus 19:23), as can the Sabbath day (Gen. 2:3), and every created thing is sanctified through the word of God and prayer (1 Tim. 4:4-5).

Sanctification follows justification. In justification our sins are completely forgiven in Christ. Sanctification is the process by which the Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ in all that we do, think, and desire. True sanctification is impossible apart from the atoning work of Christ on the cross because only after our sins are forgiven can we begin to lead a holy life.

SAVIOR, SALVATION - Salvation is the "saving" of a sinner from the righteous judgment of God. When someone appeals to God and seeks forgiveness in Jesus, his sins are forgiven. He is cleansed. His relationship with God is restored, and he is made a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). All of this is the work of God, not man. Salvation is a free gift (Rom. 6:23).

We are saved from damnation. When anyone sins, and we all have (Rom. 3:23; 6:23), he deserves eternal separation from God (Isaiah 59:2). Yet, because of His love and mercy, God became a man (John 1:1,14) and bore the sins of the world in His body on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24; 1 John 2:2).

We are forgiven when we realize that there is nothing we can do to earn the favor of God and we put our trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross (Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4). Only God saves. The only thing we bring to the cross is our sin.

SELF-EXISTENT - Literally means "of Oneself". Used of God, it denotes that God exists in of Himself, independent of anything else. God is self-existent. See Aseity

SEVEN WORLD VIEWS – (1) Mono-Theism – An Infinite Personal God exist both beyond and in the universe. We can also add Trinitarian Monotheism.

(2) Atheism – No God exist beyond or in the universe.

(3) Finite Godism – A finite God exist beyond the universe.

(4) Pantheism – God is the universe.

(5) Polytheism – There are many Gods beyond the world and in it.

(6) Panentheism – God is in the universe.

(7) Deism – God is beyond the universe, but not in it.

SIMPLICITY – Just means without parts, for what has parts can come apart. Simple also means indivisible; that is, God is not capable of being divided. Also, it means that God is absolutely one; Not only does He have unity, but He is absolute unity.

SIN - Sin means missing the mark or coming short of a standard set. Is "any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God" (1st John 3:4; Rom 4:15). In the inward state and habit of the soul, as well as in the outward conduct of the life, whether by omission or commission. (Rom 6:12-17; 7:5-24)

It is "not a mere violation of the law of our constitution, nor of the system of things, but an offense against a personal lawgiver and moral governor who vindicates his law with penalties. Sin is anything that is contrary to the law or will of God. For example: if you lie, you have sinned.

Why? Because God has said He cannot to lie (Exodus 20:16). If you do what God has forbidden, then you have sinned. In addition, if you do not do what God has commanded, you sin (James 4:17).

Either way, the result is eternal separation from God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 1:3) and unrighteousness (1 John 5:17). Sin leads to bondage (Rom. 6:14-20) and death (Rom. 6:23).

VINES: sin produces strife, shame, reproach and dishonor that causes harm to both the sinner and the one sinned against. Paul, in the book of Romans, discusses sin. He shows that everyone, both Jew and Greek, is under sin (Rom. 3:9).

Dr. Duffield and Dr. Van Cleave - Let us understand this about sin. The bible did not create the problem of sin. And that sin was in the world long before the bible was written. He shows that sin is not simply something that is done, but a condition of the heart (Rom. 3:10-12).

In Ephesians Paul says that we are "by nature children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3). Yet, "while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly," (Rom. 5:6). Then we have transgression or willful disobedience. It is the dealings of the mind. The first thought is not the sin, it is the continual entertainment of the thought.

Then from the thinking of the thought, to acting out the thought in my life it then it becomes iniquity. Which means lawlessness or wickedness. It is not being right with God or man. And it is the practice of iniquity that separates me from God. (James 1:13-16)

SOVEREIGNTY – Sovereignty or governance means “what sovereign has” which means to be in control of and to be in charge of. God in complete control of all things. Nothing catches God by surprise. All things come to pass.

Sovereignty is the right of God to do as He wishes (Psalm 50:1; Isaiah 40:15; 1 Tim. 6:15) with His creation. This implies that there is no external influence upon Him and that He also has the ability to exercise His power and control according to His will.

It is God’s sovereignty that allows man to have freewill, yet God knows all decisions that will be made, and it is God that acts according to the decision that He knows that man is going to make and do. Counter Factual means that God knows what will be and He knows what could be.

T

TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT - (1) Teleological arguments are arguments from the order in the universe to the existence of God. They are also known as arguments from design (or to be precise, arguments to design).

(2) The name “the teleological argument” is derived from the Greek word telos, meaning “end” or “purpose”. When such arguments speak of the universe being ordered, they mean that it is ordered towards some end or purpose.

(3) The suggestion is that it is more plausible to suppose that the universe is so because it was created by an intelligent being in order to accomplish that purpose than it is to suppose that it is this way by chance.

THEOCRACY - God as Supreme Being, directly rules over a nation, a people, person or marriage who choose to serve God, have fellowship with God and will humble themselves before God. The nation of Israel, in its inception, was a theocratic form of government. It was God-ruled.

The word Theocracy comes from 2 Greek words Theos which means “God” and arche which “means rule of.” Theocracy is a form of government where God is the direct authority. Theocracy is a conditional and voluntary covenant. And Theocracy is based on ABIDING with God. Deut. 11:22-28, John 15:1-8

*Chuck Smith - Now we do find in Scripture a form of government that God established and modeled in the early history of Israel. **SEE ABIDING***

THEOLOGY PROPER – Is the study of the attributes (who God is), characteristics, and activities (what God does in relation to His creation) of God.

THREE POSSIBLE WAYS TO PHILOSOPHICALLY DEFINE GOD.

1) UNIVOCALLY – means to attribute the characteristic to God in entirely the same way it is attributed to creatures.

2) EQUIVOCALLY – means to use them of God and man in an entirely different way.

3) ANALOGICALLY – means to apply moral attributes to God (Love, justice, etc.) and to man in a similar way. God is infinite love, and we can have finite love, justice etc.

TRIUNITY OR TRINITY – Means that God is a Triunity; that is there is not only one God (monotheism), but there are three persons in that one God (Trinitarian monotheism). He is a plurality within unity. God has a plurality of persons and a unity of essence; God is three persons in one nature.

TRUTHFULNESS – Means firm, stable, faithful, reliable, correct. God does not have truth, God is truth.

U

UNBELIEF, UNBELIEVER - Someone who is not willing to respond to the gospel. The word unbelief rendered "disobedience" in the Vines Dictionary. Unfaithful.

UNCAUSED BEING - What is uncaused exists in and of itself, which is what is meant by aseity (God is self-existent).

UNCAUSED CAUSE — what has no cause, a First Cause. An uncaused Cause is not a self-caused being because then the self-cause being would be a self-created being.

UNGODLY – means to have a wrong relationship with God.

UNIVERSE — everything that is created or began to exist, seen and unseen.

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS - means to have a wrong relationship with man.

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, SUPPRESSING THE TRUTH – is to believe that there is a God, yet living as though God does not exist.

V / W

WALKING IN THE FLESH - Living in such a way that does not please God and contradicts the word of God.

WALK IN THE SPIRIT - When you have a Spiritual birth, then you now have a connection with God. The spirit uppermost, Father, Son, and Spirit; spirit, mind and body. In this area of the Spirit when it rules, when you are led by the Spirit, when you are walking in the Spirit, then you have this oneness with God. Communion with God. **See Carnal, Carnally, Flesh**

WISDOM – All-wise. It is God's unerring ability to choose the best means to the best ends. **See Omni-sapience.**

WRATH OF GOD – is attributed to God in which stands opposed to man's disobedience, obduracy (especially in stubbornly resisting the gospel or course of action) and sin and manifests itself in punishing the same.

X / Y / Z

YHWH – It is the name of the Hebrew God in the Old Testament. there are the four consonants (Hebrew letters yod, he, waw, he, called the Tetragrammaton) which make up the divine name.

We must remember that the written Hebrew language did not include vowels, only the consonants were used, also that Biblical Hebrew alphabet does not have capital or small letters. These name for God is found over 6000 times in the OT. **See JEHOVAH**

