KNOWING GOD

LESSON 3

Title: God: Self-Existent, Self-Sufficient

Text: Psalm 90:1-2, 115: 1-3, Acts 17: 24-27

1. **Review**:
   1. In the first lesson we stressed the importance of properly thinking about God. We quoted A.W. Tozer who said that low thoughts of God are the cause of a hundred lesser evils. Wrong thoughts of God lead to wrong living.
   2. Thankfully, God has revealed Himself to us. To know God we must have thoughts of God equal to what He has revealed about Himself.
   3. In the previous lesson we discussed the doctrine of the Trinity, which is incomprehensible to the finite mind. Every day we accept things that for the most part are incomprehensible to most of us.
   4. There is one God. The physical presence of God the Father was in His Son Jesus Christ, to whom we are compelled to trust in through God’s Spirit that convinces us of our need of Him.
2. **Introduction**:
   1. It’s important that we make these lessons more than just abstract. Everything God has revealed about Himself has to do with our relationship with Him.
   2. For example, in this lesson we will speak of His self-existence and His self-sufficiency. These attributes have a definite bearing on us––specifically, our thoughts. Remember, we will never know God for who He is unless we come to think properly of Him.
3. **God is self-existent**:
   1. God’s name, “I AM,” describes His existence.
      1. Man is inquisitive.
         1. Man looks at creation, at things visible, and wants to know where they came from.
         2. Man looks at himself and questions his origin.
         3. All existence can be traced back to God (Genesis 1:1)
      2. The question of origin is inevitable.
         1. The kindergarten child asks, “Who made God?”
         2. “Scientists” say, “If God created everything, then where did God come from?”
      3. All of us, scientists or not, acknowledge that all life either depends upon an outside source for existence or is self-existent.
      4. “I AM”:
         1. Now, get this thought from Exodus 3:14. Pharaoh was an Egyptian King. Moses said, “Let my people go.” Pharaoh said, “Well, who are you?” Moses then said, “Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go.” Pharaohs response was, “Who is the LORD?” God responded, “I AM.” In other words, you can’t search farther back than God. “I AM”; means, “I am the essence of existence and I depend upon nothing and no one for existence.” God did not originate. “I AM” describes Him.
   2. New Testament writers also spoke of the self-existence of God.
      1. John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 1:3.
      2. These verses are very plain. God the Creator causes all things to exist but depends upon nothing and no one for His existence.

**Transition**: Since God is self-existent, it naturally follows then that He is self-sufficient.

1. **God is self-sufficient**.
   1. John 5:26… “The Father hath life in Himself”
      1. A.W. Tozer said, “An elementary but correct way to think about God is as the One who contains all, who gives all that is given, but who Himself can receive nothing that He has not first given.”
      2. God needs nothing and no one to be God.
   2. God is not made better by man’s belief in Him, nor by man’s disbelief in Him.
      1. If the whole of humanity were to go blind, would the sky at night lose its glitter and beauty? No. Likewise, if every human being became an atheist God would not cease being God. He is self-sufficient.
2. **What do these attributes have to do with you and me?**
   1. Only God is self-existent and self-sufficient and we are not God.
      1. Satan’s fall came because He wanted to be self-sufficient like God (Isaiah 14: 12-15)
      2. Acts 17:28––Paul clearly expressed that no one really lives independent of God.
      3. Daniel 5: 22-23––Belshazzar tried to live as though he were self-sufficient.
   2. The most obvious fools in life are those who try to live independent of God.