



Serving the Truth in a Love Sandwich

The Nature of God

Our God is an Awesome God!

1st Peter 3:15 "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

This series of courses is about answering difficult questions about Christianity. As disciples of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to be prepared to defend our faith. We are *not* going to study what Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists etc. believe. We are going to study the truth, not lies, except for a few of their questions, which often have lies as their basis. I hope as we go through these lessons you will create your own personal statement of faith, so you will have a clear idea of what you are defending.

However, as we study, remember God's truth is spread more heart to heart than mind to mind. Since we have minds they must also be included in the communication, but never forget to serve the truth in a love sandwich.

In the previous course we talked about the philosophical arguments for the existence of God. This course looks at what the Bible says about God. It is difficult to talk about God because He is in every way beyond us, and we will never fully understand Him as we might some object of study. Since God is so unique, how can we describe Him? We can really only know what He has chosen to reveal about Himself. It turns out that is a lot, and more than enough to excite a worship response in any normal human being.

Lesson 1 – Creator

Lesson 2 – Holy & Just

Lesson 3 – All Knowing

Lesson 4 – Everywhere Present

Lesson 5 – Power without Limit

Lesson 6 – Light

Lesson 7 – Spirit

Lesson 8 – Love

Lesson 9 – Eternal and Complete

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Other free Bible courses are available at <http://www.LoveBibleStudy.com>

Additional Reading

These lessons are designed for small groups or individuals to use without reference to other materials besides the Bible. However, a lot more could be gained if those involved would do some additional reading between class meetings. (See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/CC/Library.htm>)

We plan to provide specific recommendations with each course at <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Adjunct/> We also hope to be making specific chapter recommendations from various Christian books that have helped us in our understanding of apologetics, but are not entirely about the topic of the course. Such as these books which would make good companions for this entire series of courses.

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek

The Case for ... series of books by Lee Strobel

Cold Case Christianity, God's Crime Scene, and Forensic Faith – 3 books by J. Warner Wallace

Lesson 1 – Creator

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[1A] Genesis 1:1 _____ created the heaven and the earth.

[1B] Colossians 1:16-17 For by (or through) him were _____ created, ...
and he is before _____

[1C] Isaiah 45:11-12 _____ made the earth, and created man upon it.

[1D] John 1:3 All things were made by _____

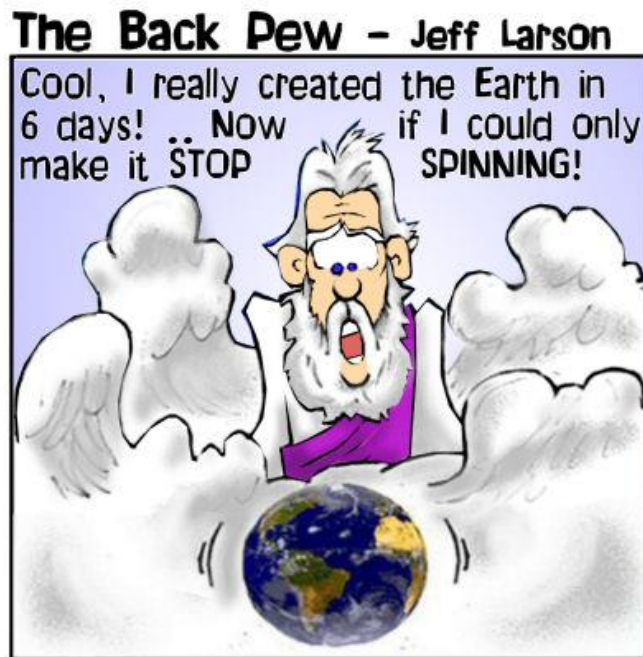
[1E] Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was _____

[1F] Psalms 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth _____

[1G] Psalm 90:2 What was before all the creation. _____

[1H] If you believe God created the whole universe please explain why you believe this. If you do not believe God created the heavens and the earth, where did the universe come from?

Think & Pray _____



GOD IS NOT a bungling creator. This earth, the rules, and the order of life are all orchestrated by God. **Genesis 1**

For further thought:

- (1i) Read Romans 1:19-23. The existence of God is intuitively obvious to the most casual observer. How can anyone be an atheist?
- (1j) How do you feel about things that you make? So what?
- (1k) Since God created us, what rights does that give Him over us?
- (1l) Genesis chapters 1 and 2 describe the creation of everything in six days. God rested on the seventh day. Why? Was He tired?

Lesson 1 – Creator

[1A] Genesis 1:1 God created the heaven and the earth.;

[1B] Colossians 1:16-17 For by (or through) him were all things created, ...

And he is before all things ...

[1C] Isaiah 45:11-12 The LORD made the earth, and created man upon it.

[1D] John 1:3 All things were made by him

[1E] Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

[1F] Psalms 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

[1G] Psalm 90:2 What was before all the creation. God

[1H] God created the heavens and the earth. I believe it because the Bible says so. (See 1A – 1G above.) But even without the Bible it is obvious that someone powerful and intelligent created it. Just look at what you can see all about you. Does that really look like an accident? Does it really look like it could just happen?

My further thoughts:

- (1i) My parents claimed to be atheists and raised me to be one. I used to argue with Christians and try to convince them God did not exist, but I really knew better. I was just trying to convince myself. I hoped He did not exist, so that I could get away with doing as I pleased. Thank God, He rescued me from all that stupidity.
- (1j) Depends on what it is. I want the things I make to be admirable and useful. I'm disappointed when they are not. If I apply that to God, I can see that He wants me to be admirable and useful. I'm disappointed when I am not.
- (1k) He owns us and can do what He pleases with us. Thank God, He loves us. He owns me three times over. He made me, He redeemed me and I gave myself to Him. How about you?
- (1l) The Bible does not explain why God rested on the seventh day. The Hebrew word translated "rest" is more about ceasing and desisting than about relaxing and recuperating, so it tells us nothing about whether God was weary or tired.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning --the first day. **Ge 1:5**

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning --the first day. **Ge 1:5**

Lesson 2 – Holy & Just

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[2A] Isaiah 6:3 Holy, holy, holy, is the _____ of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

[2B] Exodus 15:11 What is glorious about the Lord. _____

[2C] Revelation 15:4 Is the Lord Holy? _____

[2D] 1st Peter 1:16 Does God claim to be Holy? _____

[2E] Revelation 4:8 What do they say about the Lord God Almighty? _____

[2F] Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the _____ of Israel, thy Saviour:

[2G] Isaiah 43:15 I am the LORD, your _____, the creator of Israel, your King.

[2H] Deuteronomy 32:4 What is God without? _____

[2I] Job 34:10 What does God not do? _____

[2J] Psalms 92:15 What is not in God? _____

[2K] Psalm 145:17 The Lord is _____ in all his ways,
and _____ in all his works.

[2L] Revelation 15:3-4 Who is holy? _____

[2M] John 17:11 Who is holy? _____

[2N] Job 8:3 What does God NOT pervert? _____

[2O] [2C] Psalm 37:28 What does God love? _____ (also see Romans 3:25-27)

[2P] Acts 17:30-31 God has fixed, planned or appointed a day for what? _____

[2Q] Read Psalm 37:28. What difference does it make if God is just or not?

Think & Pray _____



For further thought:

- (2r) God is taking us through a process of sanctification to purify us and make us holy. How long do you think it will be before we become as holy as God?
- (2s) Does God get angry at those who mistreat us? How do you know?
- (2t) An atheist once claimed that Exodus 20:5 and Ezekiel 18:20 contradict one another. He claimed that in one place it says guilt is inherited and other it says it is not. How could we answer him?
- (2u) An atheist once attacked with this: "In 2nd Thessalonians 2:11 God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false. How could the Bible be 'God's Word' when it admits, chapter and verse, that God was a deceiver and a swindler of people? By these acts, God is the perfect model of a liar, which teaches followers to lie in direct violation of His Own commandment." How could we answer him?

----- ANSWERS -----

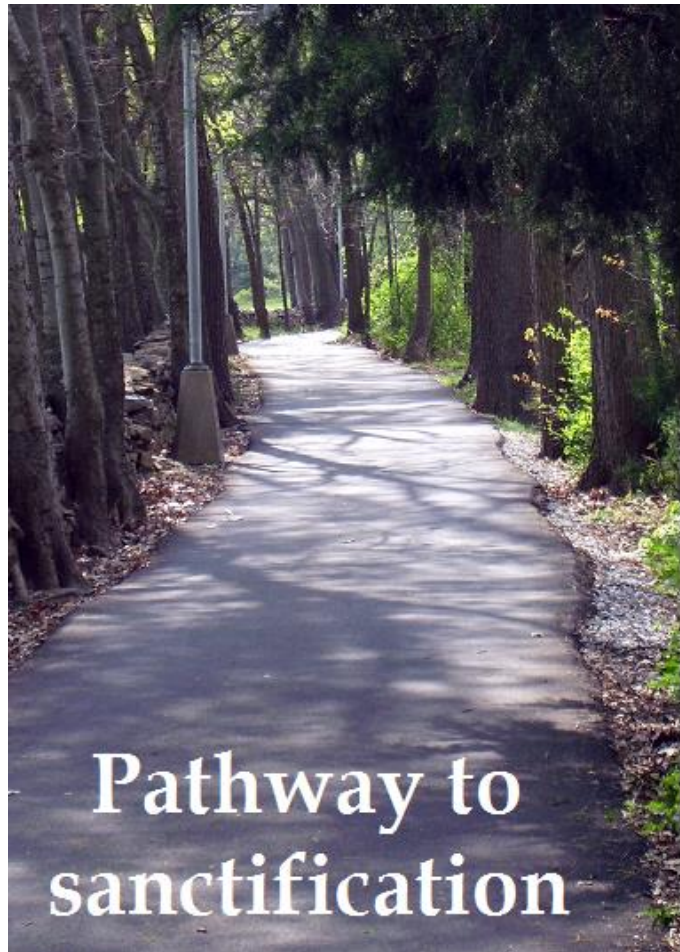
Lesson 2 – Holy & Just

- [2A] Isaiah 6:3 Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
- [2B] Exodus 15:11 What is glorious about the Lord. His holiness.
- [2C] Revelation 15:4 Is the Lord Holy? Yes.
- [2D] 1st Peter 1:16 Does God claim to be Holy? Yes.
- [2E] Revelation 4:8 What do they say about the Lord God Almighty? He is holy, holy holy.
- [2F] Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:
- [2G] Isaiah 43:15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.
- [2H] Deuteronomy 32:4 What is God without? Iniquity.
- [2I] Job 34:10 What does God not do? Wickedness
- [2J] Psalms 92:15 What is not in God? unrighteousness
- [2K] Psalm 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.
- [2L] Revelation 15:3-4 Who is holy? the Lord God Almighty
- [2M] John 17:11 Who is holy? the Father
- [2N] Job 8:3 What does God NOT pervert? justice or judgement
- [2O] [2C] Psalm 37:28 What does God love? justice or judgment (also see Romans 3:25-27)
- [2P] Acts 17:30-31 God has fixed, planned or appointed a day for what? Judgment
- [2Q] Psalm 37:28 can be tricky for us sinners. The key to understanding it is that through the blood of Jesus Christ we are one of "His godly ones." That means although we deserve complete destruction according to His justice, we are given instead, eternal life, because of the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross, because of His love and grace.

My further thoughts:

- (2r) It will never happen. See 1st Samuel 2:2.
Nobody is as holy as God.
- (2s) Mistreating other people is a very bad idea, especially God's children. See Psalm 7:6, 2 Thess 1:6 and Luke 18:7.
- (2t) If I decide to drink up my income and beat my wife and children, they share in the consequences of what I do. God does not, however, hold them accountable. If we read the context of Exodus 20:5 we see that if we continue in the sins of our ancestors it just gets worse and worse, but that generation that repents and returns to Him will be blessed. This is confirmed and clarified by Ezekiel 18:20.
- (2u) God hides the full truth from His enemies.
What is wrong with that? The lesson for us is to not be His enemy.

These questions and many more are explored in the course *The Problem of Evil* available at www.lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/TLS_00_Love_Sandwich.htm



Lesson 3 – All Knowing (Omniscience)

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[3A] 1st Chronicles 28:9 The LORD searches _____ hearts,
and understands _____ the imaginations of the thoughts.

[3B] 1st John 3:20 Who knows all things? _____

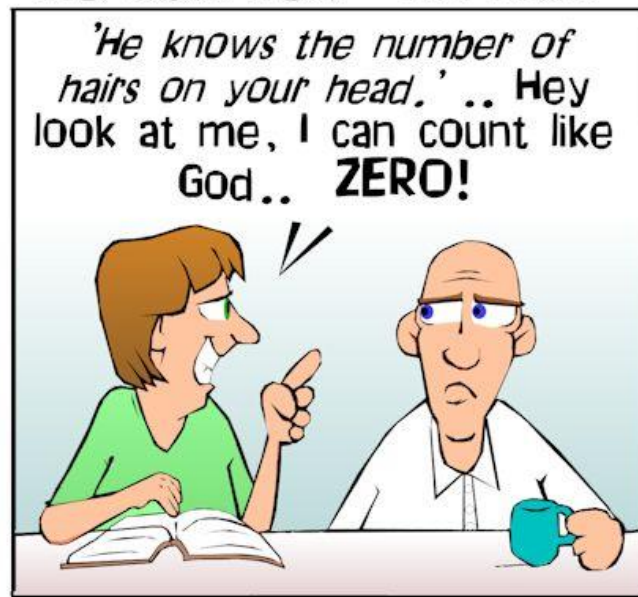
[3C] Psalm 147:4-5 What is the limit of God's understanding? _____

[3D] Psalm 33:13 How many people can God see? _____

[3E] According to Isaiah 46:10 how long has God known how things were going to turn out?

[3F] What does Matthew 10:29-30 tell us about God? _____

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Joyce and Ralph enjoyed reading their Bible together, BUT sometimes Joyce's sense of humor was NOT appreciated. **Mt 10:30**

[3G] According to 1 Kings 8:39 what does God know? _____

[3H] How could you go about keeping a secret from God?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(3i) Doesn't the Bible say that there are things God does not know in Jeremiah 11:19 and Jeremiah 31:34?

(3j) What point is John trying to make when he tells us in 1 John 3:20 that God knows everything?

(3k) Why does the Psalmist tell us God sees everyone in Ps 33:13 and that God's understanding is infinite in Ps 147:5?

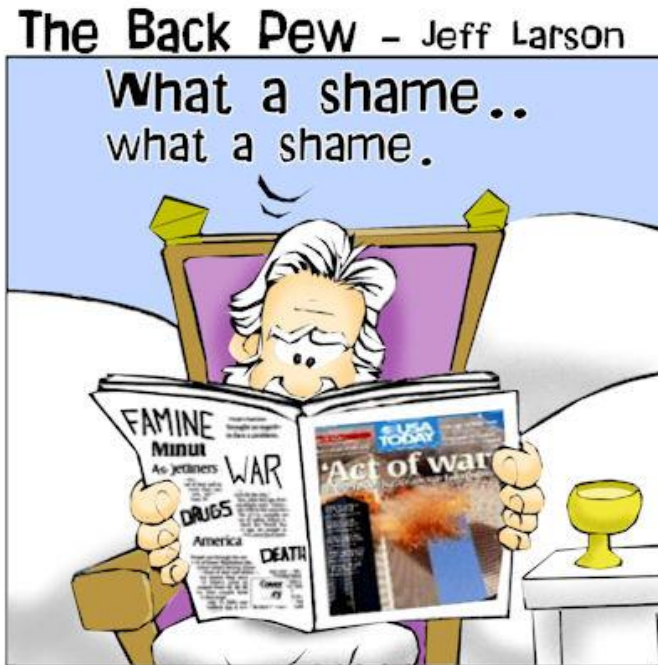
(3l) Why does Matthew tell us about the amazing detailed awareness of God in Matt 10:29-30?

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 3 – All Knowing

- [3A] 1st Chronicles 28:9 The LORD searches all hearts,
and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts.
- [3B] 1st John 3:20 Who knows all things? God
- [3C] Psalm 147:4-5 What is the limit of God's understanding? It is infinite, without limit.
- [3D] Psalm 33:13 How many people can God see? All of them
- [3E] According to Isaiah 46:10 how long has God known how things were going to turn out?
From the very beginning
- [3F] What does Matthew 10:29-30 tell us about God? He keeps track of all the little details.
- [3G] According to 1 Kings 8:39 what does God know? Everyone's heart

[3H] God is omniscient, which means he knows everything. The Bible says that God knows everything. (See 3A-3D above) There is no way to keep a secret from Him, even about our thoughts. That is why it is important to try to keep our minds clean for Him.



GOD IS NOT a distant powerless deity watching the chaos of this world with indifference from his Heavenly box seats.
John 3:16, Jer 29:11, Mt. 10:26-32

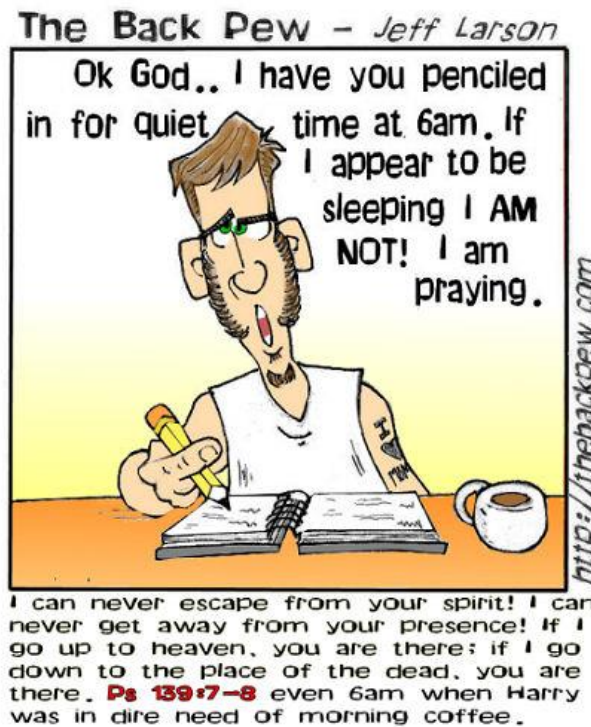
My further thoughts:

- (3i) God has such a perfect mind that He can as an act of His will choose to forget things. That He has chosen not to remember our sin is wonderful!
- (3j) I think he is explaining that you can fool other people into believing you are good, and that sometimes you can even fool yourself for a while, but God knows the truth, and the truth about ourselves will come clear to us in our prayer time, if we are really praying to God and not pretending to pray. (See 1 John 3:15-22)
- (3k) They are each part of a worship song exalting the wonders of God.
- (3l) He is giving us comfort for our times of fear. (See Matt 10:28-31)

Lesson 4 – Everywhere Present (Omnipresent)

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[4A] According to Psalm 139:8-10 where can we find God? _____



[4B] Jeremiah 23:24 What does the Lord fill? _____

[4C] 1st Kings 8:27 Can heaven contain God? _____

[4D] Acts 17:27-28 Where do we live and move? _____

[4E] Psalm 113:5 Where does God live? _____

[4F] Psalm 123:1 Where does God live? _____

[4G] Matthew 18:20 Where _____ are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

[4H] If you were tired of God being around, where could you go to avoid Him?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(4i) *Atheist Attack:* "The Bible says God is not everywhere – Psalm 139:7-11 we are told God is everywhere then how could he 'come down to earth' (Gen. 11:5) or Satan 'leave His presence' (Job 1: 12, 2:7)?" How could we respond to him?

(4j) What does Psalm 46:1 tell us about the omnipresence of God? (See also Isaiah 57:15)

(4k) *Atheist Attack:* "How can God be everywhere when Proverbs 15:29 says He is far away from some people?" How could we respond to him?

(4l) In the middle of a prayer in 1 Kings 8:27 Solomon mentions that God can not even be contained in all the heavens. Why do you suppose he mentions that when he is talking to God who knows it already?

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 4 – Everywhere Present

[4A] According to Psalm 139:8-10 where can we find God?

Heaven, hell (or the depths), and the furthestmost parts (or far side) of the sea.

[4B] Jeremiah 23:24 What does the Lord fill? Heaven and earth.

[4C] 1st Kings 8:27 Can heaven contain God? No

[4D] Acts 17:27-28 Where do we live and move? In Him or in the Lord

[4E] Psalm 113:5 Where does God live? On high.

[4F] Psalm 123:1 Where does God live? In the heavens.

[4G] Matthew 18:20 Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

[4H] God is omnipresent, which means he is everywhere. The Bible says He is everywhere at the same time, so I will not ever be able to avoid Him. (See 4A-4G above) A student once answered this question by saying you could go to Hell if you wanted to avoid Him. I believe He is in Hell, (Revelation 14:10) but no one there is allowed to see Him or have contact with Him. (Matthew 25:41) But why would we want to avoid Him? He knows we are sinners, and yet still loves us.



My further thoughts:

(4i) My answer was sarcastic. Perhaps I should have said was something like this: "I agree that these passages do seem to conflict when you first glimpse at them. But I think describing God moving is just a way of talking about His activity or His focus of attention. It is simply human language struggling to describe the indescribable. How do you go about talking about the actions of an omnipresent being? The human mind cannot fully grasp infinity or anything associated with it such as omniscience or omnipresence. Human language has difficulty in the same way whether the infinity being discussed is associated with spiritual truths, mathematical truths, or astronomical truths."

(4j) God is not just there, He is there to help.

(4k) My answer was sarcastic. Perhaps I should have said was something like this: "I can see why someone might find this confusing. I think what is going on here is the writer of Proverbs is drawing a poetic picture of the contrast in the response of God to the righteous and the wicked. It has nothing to do with literal relative positions and distances in space."

(4l) Solomon is praying aloud in front of the assembly of Israel (1Kg 8:22). I think he did not want anyone to misunderstand as they prayed together that the temple was some kind of house where God lived. It was a place for people to get away from the distractions of life and focus their attention on God.

Lesson 5 – Power without Limit (Omnipotent)

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[5A] Genesis 17:1 Does God claim to be almighty? _____

[5B] Job 42:2 What can God do? _____

[5C] Jeremiah 32:17 How did God make everything? _____

[5D] Jeremiah 32:27 What is too hard for God? _____

[5E] Matthew 19:26 What is possible with God? _____

[5F] Luke 1:37 For _____ nothing shall be impossible.

[5G] Revelation 19:6 Who reigns? _____

[5H] Even though God is all powerful there may be some things He cannot do. For example?

Think & Pray _____



God has power without limit

For further thought:

(5i) *Atheist Attack:* "Miracles are impossible. The simplest reason that miracles are unlikely to happen anywhere under any conditions derives from the fact that miracles are never observed under controlled conditions. This is not conclusive proof that a miracle cannot ever happen or that a miracle could not have happened in antiquity, but it is proof that the existence of all miracles is very improbable. This is because the "sample size" (the number of attempted experiments) is huge without ever producing a single success. The math behind this reasoning is uncontroversial. The only possible arguments are that the supernatural agents behind these miracles resist testing or that there is a grand conspiracy among scientists to suppress the truth about miracles. The supernatural only seems to lurk in superstition and sloppy reasoning. When the experiment is well designed natural causes always win out. After all of this experience, an explanation involving natural cause and effect becomes like a racehorse that has won every race for the last 500 years. One would be a fool to bet against that horse without very reliable information." How can we respond to this?

(5j) *Atheist Attack:* "Miracles are impossible. The most powerful reason that you should doubt the existence of miracles is a little difficult to grasp. You may have noticed that mankind's best theories (some have been tested to the point of being called natural laws) would just fall apart like tissue paper in a tornado, if miracles are real. For example when the Bible says Peter & Jesus walked on water that violates the natural law we all know is true that people are not water bugs. These theories are based on the basic truths of the universe, which are necessarily in agreement with other theories and have been tested way more than a single person's life experience. When you ask me to throw away any of this you must give me really extra special evidence." How can we respond to this?

Lesson 5 – Power without Limit

- [5A] Genesis 17:1 Does God claim to be almighty? Yes
- [5B] Job 42:2 What can God do? All things.
- [5C] Jeremiah 32:17 How did God make everything? By His great power or outstretched arm
- [5D] Jeremiah 32:27 What is too hard for God? Nothing.
- [5E] Matthew 19:26 What is possible with God. All things.
- [5F] Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible
- [5G] Revelation 19:6 Who reigns? Lord God omnipotent or Lord God almighty
- [5H] God is omnipotent, which means he has power without limit. (See 5A-5G above) However, God can not lie. How could He lie? If He says something it becomes true, even if it wasn't before. God cannot sin. How could He sin? Going against His will is the definition of sin.

My further thoughts:

(5i) My actual response: "There is another possible response; miracles by their nature are not testable. They happen when God wants, not when we want. The very act of trying to scientifically study them renders them even more unlikely than they are normally. God has no interest in people trying to prove the existence of miracles. Why would He show up for the test? I suppose we could say this fits your first possible argument except instead of 'resisting' testing He is ignoring it.

"God tried this approach a few times, probably just to show us why He does not do it all the time. The best example of such an experimental confirmation of miracles, and of His existence, is 1st Kings 18. Elijah sets up a contest between Baal and Jehovah to prove by an experiment who is the real God. Both Baal and Jehovah are asked to perform a miracle. In seems Baal was asleep or out of town. Jehovah wins, but there are few that repent of their sins. Why would God want to do that over and over again? God knows how to get us to repent, and it is not magic tricks." (See also John 5:46-47)

If I were to respond now I would like to think I would ask the atheist what makes him think God would be interested in becoming a test subject in his experiments. Then I would ask why it mattered to him whether miracles are real. Finally I would suggest to him that if he would commit himself to obeying God, God would give him sufficient evidence just as He has done me and all the other millions of people who have ceased to be in rebellion against God.

(5j) My actual response: "God is not subject to natural laws, so when He does something beyond them, it has no impact on the natural law at all. Let's be clear about something. I'm not asking you to discard anything. I am not asking you to believe in miracles. You are asking me to not believe in them. I have been asked to give the reason for my beliefs so I am trying to do that. I am not laboring under the delusion that I am going to be successful in convincing you of anything. As far as I am concerned, you are free to believe anything you like. I have told you the truth about Jesus Christ. What you do about it is your business."

If I were to respond now I would ask him what makes him think God is subject to obeying the 'natural law' which He created. Then I would ask why it mattered to him whether miracles are real. Finally I would suggest to him that if he would commit himself to obeying God, God would give him sufficient evidence just as He has done me and all the other millions of people who have ceased to be in rebellion against God.

Lesson 6 – Light (Omniluminous)

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[6A] 1st John 1:5 God is _____. How much darkness is in God? _____

[6B] Revelation 22:5 Who provides light in heaven? _____

[6C] Psalms 36:9 Where is light to be found? _____

[6D] Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my _____

[6E] John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the _____ of men.

[6F] Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy _____ is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

[6G] Is God really the light we see by or is it a figure of speech for something? So what?

Think & Pray _____



For further thought:

(6h) Hebrews 12:29 says our God is a consuming fire. What does that mean? (See also Matt 10:28)

(6i) Judaism, Islam and Mormonism all began when their initial prophet had a conversation with an angel of light. Why do we believe Moses but not Mohammed or Joseph Smith?

(6j) Psalm 139:11-12 tells us that God illuminates the darkness. Why do you suppose the Psalmist mentions this?

(6k) When you open a refrigerator door at night without turning on the overhead light, the light inside the refrigerator illuminates the room. On the other hand, when you open an unlighted closet, the darkness within does not escape into the room. Why is that? So what?

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 6 – Light

[6A] 1st John 1:5 God is Light. How much darkness is in God? None at all.

[6B] Revelation 22:5 Who provides light in heaven? Lord God.

[6C] Psalms 36:9 Where is light to be found? In God

[6D] Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light

[6E] John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

[6F] Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

[6G] It might mean that He is actual light depending on how you understand Genesis 1:3. If you understand the verse to mean that God was creating light, than He can not be literal light, because He already existed. If you understand the verse to mean God was allowing His light to flood over into His creation, then it could mean that he is literally light. I think "God is light" in the Bible means that not only can God see everything, but the closer we get to Him the more we can see about reality and truth. The better we understand Him, the more we understand our own sin.

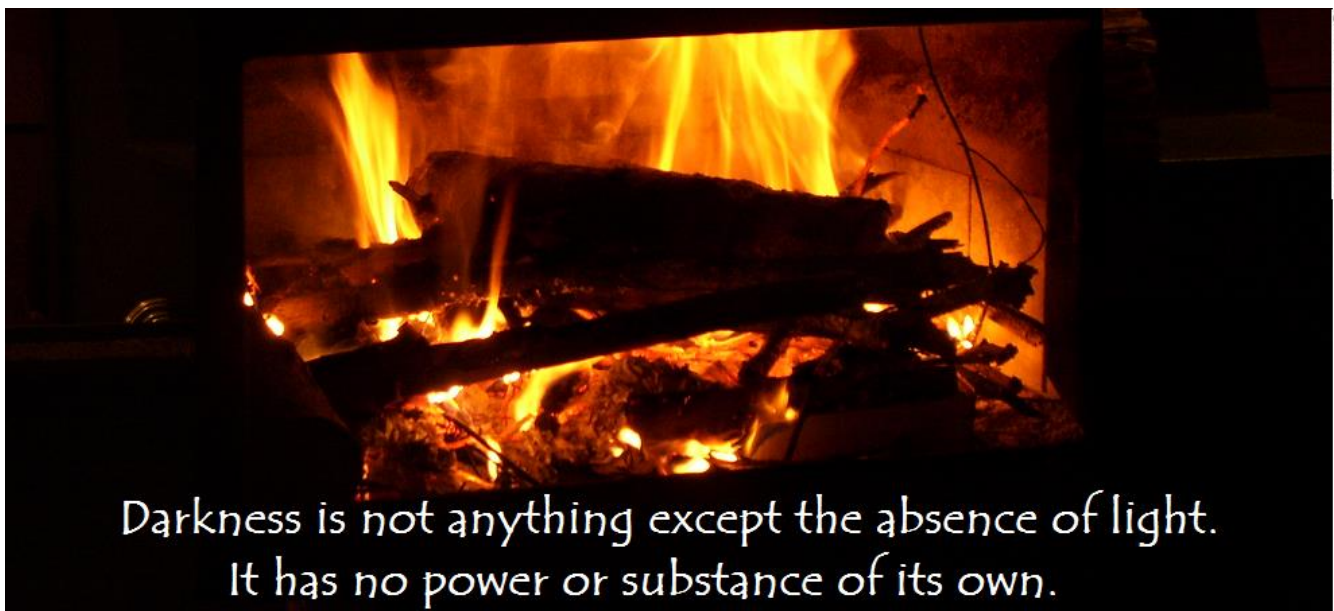
My further thoughts:

(6h) It is a confession of the power of God over our lives. It is part of a statement of praise and worship (Heb 12:25-29) which is meant to make the reader aware of the power of God in order to exhort us towards obedience.

(6i) Moses had other witness (Deuteronomy 4:12) but the other two did not.

(6j) The Psalmist is praying for God to cleanse him of sin and to guide him into God's ways. (Ps 139:23-24) Before he asks God for these things he praises God's and confesses that God can do the things he is asking for. That is a good model prayer for us all.

(6k) Darkness is not anything except the absence of light. It has no power or substance of its own. Could it be that this property of light is one of the things in creation that tells something about God? (Romans 1:19-23) Could it mean that apart from God there is nothing?



Lesson 7 – Spirit (Incorporeal)

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[7A] John 4:24 God is _____

[7B] 2nd Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is _____

[7C] John 1:18 No man hath seen _____ at any time

[7D] 1st Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, _____, the only wise God.

[7E] 1st John 4:12 Who has seen God? _____

[7F] According to Philippians 3:3 who do we worship? _____

[7G] According to Galatians 5:25 those who live by the Spirit walk by what? _____

[7H] According to Galatians 4:6 where is the Spirit of His Son? _____

[7I] According to Colossians 1:15 in whose image is Jesus Christ? _____

[7J] What is the difference between your common, every day ghost, and the Holy Spirit?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(7k) *Atheist Attack*: "In Revelation 17:14 and Rev 19:16 it calls Jesus Christ 'King of kings and Lord of Lords.' However in 1st Tim 6:15-16 it says that no man has seen Him and we know people saw Jesus. Isn't that a contradiction?" How could we respond to him?

(7l) In John 4:23-24 what does Jesus mean when He says "worship in spirit and truth?" (Hints: Psalm 31:5; John 14:17; John 15:26; John 16:13; Romans 9:1; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 4:6; 1 John 5:6)

(7m) What does Galatians 5:25 mean by "walk by the Spirit?" (Hints: John 3:3; Romans 6:11-14; Galatians 5:22,23; Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:27; Colossians 3:16; Philippians 1:27)



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 7 – Spirit

- [7A] John 4:24 God is Spirit:
[7B] 2nd Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
[7C] John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time
[7D] 1st Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God
[7E] 1st John 4:12 Who has seen God? No man or No one (at least in His entirety)
[7F] According to Philippians 3:3 who do we worship? The Spirit of God
[7G] According to Galatians 5:25 those who live by the Spirit walk by what? The Spirit.
[7H] According to Galatians 4:6 where is the Spirit of His Son? In our hearts
[7I] According to Colossians 1:15 in whose image is Jesus Christ? The invisible God (You have to read the context)
[7J] The Holy Ghost is real. Other "ghosts" are either a delusion, psychosis or a demonic apparition.

My further thoughts:

(7k) One possible response: "That is an interesting question. We have to assume that Paul, the writer of First Timothy knew people had seen Jesus, since he had seen Him and knew many other people who had also seen Him. Clearly Paul did not mean that Jesus had not been seen and could not be seen. So what did he mean? Usually when we see the pronoun "whom" we look for a person who is he antecedent. The only person nearby in the prose is Jesus, so we assume it must be Him. However, there is another omnipresent possibility. The 'whom' could mean the 'unapproachable light' which immediately comes before the 'whom' in the sentence. This 'unapproachable light' in which Jesus dwells immortally can only be God, who we already know is light from lesson 6, and already know can not be seen from this lesson."

(7l) From: <http://www.gotquestions.org/worship-spirit-truth.html> "True worship must be 'in spirit,' that is, engaging the whole heart. Unless there's a real passion for God, there is no worship in spirit. At the same time, worship must be 'in truth,' that is, properly informed. Unless we have knowledge of the God we worship, there is no worship in truth. Both are necessary for satisfying and God-honoring worship. Spirit without truth leads to a shallow, overly-emotional experience that could be compared to a drug induced high. As soon as the emotion is over, when the fervor cools, so does the worship. Truth without spirit can result in a dry, passionless encounter that can easily lead to a form of joyless legalism. The best combination of both aspects of worship results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we appreciate Him. The more we appreciate, the deeper our worship. The deeper our worship, the more God is glorified.

"This melding of spirit and truth in worship is best summed up by Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century American pastor and theologian. He said: 'I should think myself in the way of my duty to raise the emotions of my hearers as high as possibly I can, provided that they are affected with nothing but truth.' Edwards recognized that truth and only truth can properly influence the emotions in a way that brings honor to God. The truth of God, being of infinite value, is worthy of infinite passion."

Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

(7m) From: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-walk.html> "Believers have the Spirit of Christ, the hope of glory within them (Colossians 1:27). Those who walk in the Spirit will show forth daily, moment-by-moment holiness. This is brought about by consciously choosing by faith to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide in thought, word, and deed (Romans 6:11-14). Failure to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance will result in a believer not living up to the calling and standing that salvation provides (John 3:3; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27). We can know that we are walking in the Spirit if our lives are showing forth the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22,23). Being filled (walking) with the Spirit is the same as allowing the word of Christ (the Bible) to richly dwell in us (Colossians 3:16)."

Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Lesson 8 – Love (Omnibenevolent)

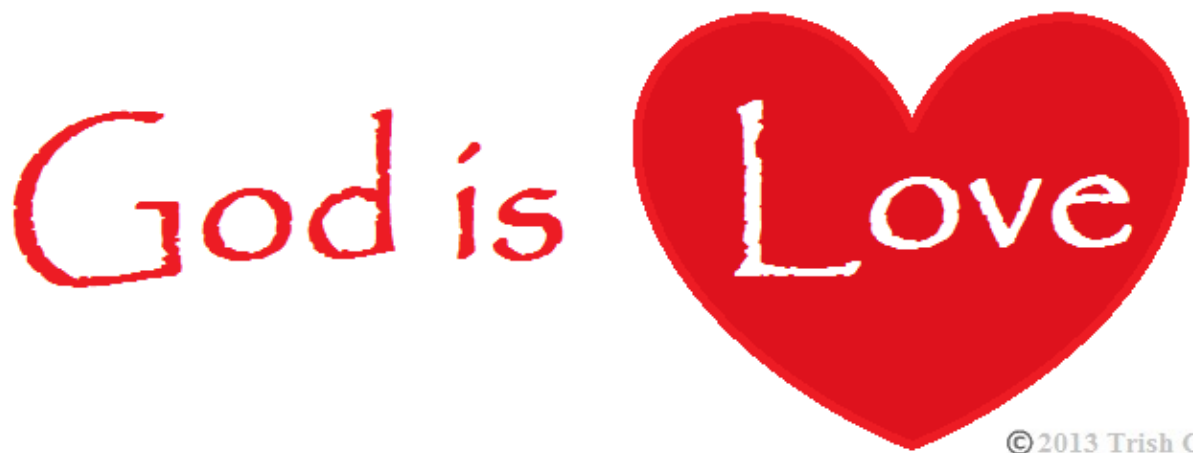
Please read 1 John 4:7-21 and answer the following questions:

- [8A] Where does love come from? _____
- [8B] What is God? _____
- [8C] How can we see that God loves us? _____
- [8D] What motivated God to send His Son? _____
- [8E] What should we do because God loved us? _____
- [8F] What happens if we love one another? _____
- [8G] How do we know we abide in Him and He in us? _____
- [8H] What can John and the other apostles testify? _____
- [8I] Where is the one who abides in love? _____
- [8J] What does our growing love makes us confident in? _____
- [8K] What gets rid of fear? _____
- [8L] Why do we love? _____
- [8M] If someone says they hate another but claim to love God, what are they? _____
- [8N] Is it optional for followers of God to love others? _____
- [8O] What does the phrase "God is love" in 1 John 4:16 mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

- (8p) What does Jude 1:21 mean?
- (8q) Is love an action or a feeling? How does knowing the answer to this question help us understand what "God is Love" means?
- (8r) 1st Corinthians 13:13 says that love is greater than faith and hope. Why do you think love is the greatest?



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Lesson 8 – Love

Please read 1 John 4:7-21 and answer the following questions:

- [8A] Where does love come from? God 1Jn 4:7
- [8B] What is God? Love 1Jn 4:8 and 1Jn 4:16
- [8C] How can we see that God loves us? He sent His only begotten Son to give us life 1Jn 4:9
- [8D] What motivated God to send His Son? Because He loved us 1Jn 4:10
- [8E] What should we do because God loved us? Love each other 1Jn 4:11
- [8F] What happens if we love one another? God abides in us, and His love completes us 1Jn 4:12
- [8G] How do we know we abide in Him and He in us? He has given us of His Spirit 1 Jn 4:13
and we confess that Jesus is the Son of God 1 Jn 4:15
- [8H] What can John and the other apostles testify? The Father sent His Son to be our Savior 1 Jn 4:14
- [8I] Where is the one who abides in love? Also abiding in God 1Jn 4:16
- [8J] What does our growing love makes us confident in? The day of judgement 1Jn 4:17
- [8K] What gets rid of fear? Love 1Jn 4:18
- [8L] Why do we love? Because He first loved us 1Jn 4:19
- [8M] If someone says they hate another but claim to love God, what are they? A liar 1Jn 4:20
- [8N] Is it optional for followers of God to love others? No, it is a commandment 1Jn 4:21
- [8O] I think 1st John 4:16 is talking about how the love of God is so influential over those who are close to Him, that they can not help but begin to love as well. If you really know who God is, you can not help but love others. (See also 2nd Corinthians 13:11)

My further thoughts:

(8p) I think Jude 1:21 is saying that we should try to imitate God's love as much as we humanly can, understanding that it is only by His power, that we can love; it is only from Him that we can expect mercy; and our hope should only be in Him.

(8q) In the Biblical context the word "love" is usually an action word. It means doing something for someone else's benefit. Greek had a different word for the feeling of affection we most often call "love" but this "love as a feeling word" seldom appears in the New Testament.

Here is a rare and interesting exception from John 21:15-17

"So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love [love in action] Me more than these?'

"He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love [love as a feeling] You.'

"He said to him, 'Tend My lambs.' He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love [love in action] Me?'

"He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love [love as a feeling] You.'

"He said to him, 'Shepherd My sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love [love in action] Me?'

"Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love [love in action] Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love [love in action] You.'

"Jesus said to him, 'Tend My sheep.'"

God is love in action.

(8r) The Bible does not explain so I can only speculate. It seems to me that love is eternal and faith and hope are not. Once we get to heaven and God dries our tears, our hopes will be realized completely, and our faith will be fulfilled. Of the three; faith, hope and love; only love will remain forever.

Lesson 9 – Eternal and Complete (Timeless and Immutable)

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[9A] In 1st Timothy 1:17, how long will God exist? _____

[9B] In Psalms 33, how far into the future has God planned? _____

[9C] In Matthew 6:25-33, is God still active in the care of the creation? _____

[9D] In Isaiah 46:10, how long will God's plans stand? _____

[9E] In Psalm 90:2, God is God from when to when? _____

[9F] In Romans 1:20, what kind of power does God have? _____

[9G] According to Psalm 102:12, how long will God be in charge? _____

[9H] In Psalm 102:24-27, how many generations will God's years last? _____

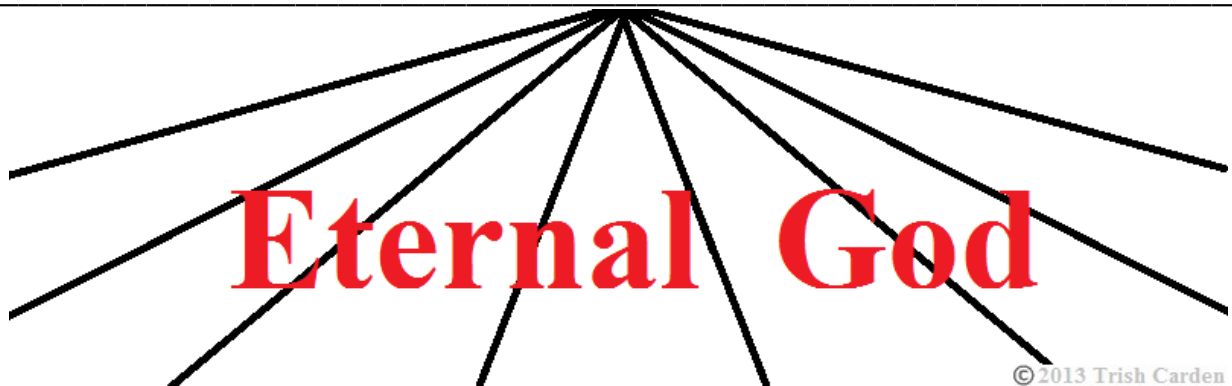
[9I] In Malachi 3:6, what does the Lord not do? _____

[9J] In James 1:17, what does God not do? _____

[9K] According to Isaiah 46:9-11 how long has God known what is going to happen? _____

[9L] Sometimes we compliment someone by saying, "He has a lot of potential" or "She really learns quickly." Should we compliment God in the same way?

Think & Pray _____



For further thought:

(9m) *Atheist Attack*: "The Bible contradicts itself. Numbers 23:19 says, '**God is not a man**, that he should lie; neither the son of man, **that he should repent**: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?' but Jonah 3:10 says, 'And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and **God repented** of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.' Translators chose "repent" in both cases. Their knowledge of those languages told them that "repent" was the best choice for expressing the intended sense. If there were any nuance that needed to be made clear in the text, translators would have included modifiers or more precise synonyms to that effect. The difference between a repenting and a non-repenting god is clear. The Bible contradicts itself because in one place it says that God does not repent and in another that he does."

(9n) What is God's relationship to time? Consider Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8.

(9o) Discuss the meaning and logical implications of Psalm 33:11; Psalm 41:13; Psalm 90:2-4; John 17:5; and 2 Timothy 1:9.

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 9 – Eternal and Complete

- [9A] In 1st Timothy 1:17, how long will God exist? forever (He is eternal and immortal)
[9B] In Psalms 33, how far into the future has God planned? Forever
[9C] In Matthew 6:25-33, is God still active in the care of the creation? Yes
[9D] In Isaiah 46:10, how long will God's plans stand? Forever or until the end or always
[9E] In Psalm 90:2, God is God from when to when? Everlasting to everlasting
[9F] In Romans 1:20, what kind of power does God have? Eternal power
[9G] According to Psalm 102:12, how long will God be in charge? Forever
[9H] In Psalm 102:24-27, how many generations will God's years last? All of them
[9I] In Malachi 3:6, what does the Lord not do? Change
[9J] In James 1:17, what does God not do? Change
[9K] According to Isaiah 46:9-11 how long has God known what is going to happen? Always

[9L] Not in my opinion. God is complete and perfect; He does not change or improve.

Another person had an interesting alternative way of looking at it. He used the analogy of a electric outlet having electrical potential or what we call voltage. When you plug into it, the socket it gives you the power to turn on a light, make some kind of machine do work, give us entertainment, or allow us to communicate. If we plug into the power of God, it illuminates our lives and sometimes the people around us, gives us the energy and motivation to work in His kingdom, give s us joy, and allows us to hear the voice of our Master. In that sense, then, God has a limitless potential.

My further thoughts:

(9m) My Actual Answer: "The same word does not always mean the same thing. Take the word "light" for instance. Light can mean daytime, starting a fire, a fixture in the ceiling, what our eyes detect, or not heavy. Repent can also mean more than one thing. In Num. 23:19 repentance means sorrow for sins committed. In Jonah 3:10 it means to change your mind. I agree the English is clear enough. The word "usually" in the definition of "repent" does not mean "always." The Hebrew word is *nacham*. The translators of the KJV Old Testament rendered it comfort 57 times, repent 41 times, comforter 9 times, and ease 1 time. In the NASV we find it translated many more different ways: am sorry, appeased, change, changed, comfort, console, ended, give rest, have compassion, mind, moved to pity, regret, relent, relieved, repent, sorry, think better, and time of mourning. Comfort was the most with 31 times. Repent was chosen only five times. In Jonah 3:10 NASB has it "relented" as do several other modern versions. A couple translated it as "had mercy." I can not understand how you can assert the opposite of what the translators actually do, while at the same time claiming they support your view."

If I were to answer him now instead of lecturing him on his ignorance of language in general and Hebrew in particular, I think I would just ask him what makes him think the word "repent" is supposed to be taken in the same way in both places when the context is so different.

(9n) Time is God's creature, not His master. He transcends it.

(9o) "Seen from a logical viewpoint, there are several reasons why it is impossible for God to change. First, if anything changes it must do so in some chronological order. There must be a point in time before the change and a point in time after the change. Therefore, for change to take place it must happen within the constraints of time; however, God is eternal and exists outside of the constraints of time." From: <http://www.gotquestions.org/immutability-God.html>.