

Questions for Lesson 17: Which God? (Part 1)

1. What have the previous 16 lessons dealt with?

Answer: Evidence for the existence of some kind of a God, but not necessarily the God of the Bible. This has been deliberate, to diffuse atheist claims that we are using scripture to prove something it cannot prove. Our discussions have centered on the evidence from creation, from design features seen in the creation, from the nature of a creator--being outside of space and time--and from ontological evidence from our own nature as beings created in the image of God. That doesn't necessarily mean it is the God of the Bible--that is what we are dealing with in this lesson.

2. For most people who are part of a church, why are they members of that particular church or denomination?

Answer: In many cases it is because they were raised by parents who attended that church. Inherited faith is acceptance, but not necessarily faith that has meaning and motivation.

3. Where did your speaker get his faith that there is no God?

Answer: The same as question # 2--he inherited it from his parents.

4. What is meant by "universal inspiration?"

Answer: The idea that the author was gifted or talented like Shakespeare, but not directed by God.

5. What is meant by "partial inspiration" and what is wrong with it?

Answer: It is the view that the Bible contains the Word of God, but that it also contains some opinions of the human authors that might be in error. The problem is that it makes the reader decide what is from God and what is not making the Bible an unreliable moral choice.

6. What is meant by "plenary inspiration?"

Answer: God breathed. The idea is that no mistakes were allowed to get into the writings although the style and background of the writer was allowed to show.

7. What is NOT unique about the Bible?

Answer: Its age, what part of the world it came from, the beauty of its writings (all religious books have good things to say and say them well).

8. What is meant by "biblical clarity?"

Answer: Easy to understand--like Genesis 1 or the plan of salvation.

9. Does the book of Revelation disprove biblical clarity?

Answer: No. If a person looks at who wrote the book, to whom it was written, why it was written, and how people of that time would have understood the message, it is easy to understand. It does, at the same time, challenge the minds of the most brilliant scholars. It is also important to see that it is not essential that we understand the book

of Revelation to be saved.

10. What was unique about the way that Jesus taught?

Answer: Among other things, He taught with authority, and claimed divinity. C. S. Lewis says Jesus was either a lunatic or God. No middle ground exists.

11. Why is it important for every person to ask the question "Which God?"

Answer: Because we need to know why we believe what we believe. Otherwise our faith is really just acceptance and will not be an active, living faith. Our world today pushes pluralism--the idea that all religious viewpoints are equally valid. That is socially acceptable, but many Christians and Muslims would not accept it as valid.

12. What is the greatest evidence to Christians and possibly to the world that the Bible is inspired, and that Jesus Christ is the answer and is the Son of God?

Answer: In the lives of Christians and the fruits of their works. When people can see changes in our lives and can see Christ living in us they have the greatest evidence that Jesus is what He said He was and that the Bible is God-breathed.