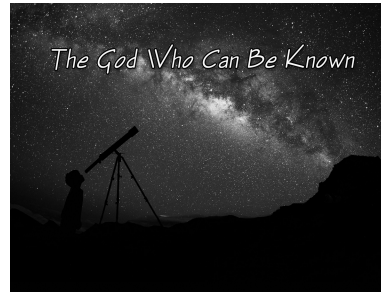


Notes:



Dan Wilvers- January 7th, 2018 Part 1

How We Know of God's Existence

Romans 1:16-25

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Hebrews 11:6

1. We can know God from natural revelation .

"... what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made ..."
Romans 1:19,20

The two arguments most tied to these verses would be the **cosmological argument** and the **teleological argument**.

Cosmological argument-Where did the world come from?

Teleological argument- Why is the universe fine tuned for life?

2. We do know God instinctively.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness... Romans 1:18

What is the truth we're suppressing?

1. Life is random.
2. Truth is relative.
3. People are basically good
4. Goal of life is self-satisfaction.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. vs.21

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie. vs.25

Here's the point: You can't suppress something unless you have it.

3. How we can know God again truly?

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:17

If you were only to know God through some of the OT stories you'd think of Him much more in the way the Muslims think of him. As a very powerful judge and mediator of his justice.

But it's only in the gospel that He is truly revealed as He is.

The Gospel Part 1-God is righteous and demands righteousness and demands justice and therefore demands that sin is paid for.

The Gospel Part 2- God gives you your righteousness as a gift out of love, wherein He paid your debt to satisfy His justice.

In other words, if you really want to know God, you must look at the cross, because on the cross God was revealed as being much holier than you're ever going to know from looking at nature.

How holy? So holy that nothing less than the death of the Son of God on the cross would save you ...

Yet so loving ...God was willing to come in the second person of the Triune Godhead; the Son, Jesus Christ and die on the cross for you.

Admitting your sin

Believing Jesus is our substitutionary sacrifice

Committing your life to God through Him.

This is the faith of **salvation and eternal life with God.**

..."The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:17