**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 4**

**How do we know there is a god?**

1. Because we know
2. According to the Natural Knowledge of God, which all human beings have according to.
	1. Nature/Creation (what we experience around us)
		1. Romans 1:18-23ff, also Psalm 19:1

**18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19**For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20**For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21**For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22**Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

* + 1. God as Creator…designer and builder of heaven and earth.
		2. Gives only a limited picture of God: His Power and Might
	1. Conscience (what we experience within ourselves)
		1. Romans 2:1-11

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. **2**We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. **3**Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? **4**Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? **5**But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. **6**He will render to each one according to his works: **7**to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; **8**but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. **9**There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, **10**but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. **11**For God shows no partiality.

* + 1. God as Moral Legislator, Judge, and Executive
		2. Gives only a limited Picture of God: His Justice
1. According to the Revealed Knowledge of God, which is only available to those who hear the Word of God.
	1. Holy Scripture (The 66 canonical books of the Old and New Testament)
		1. God as Savior of His People, through His Son Jesus Christ.
		2. Gives a full picture of God: Including His true image, Jesus Christ, and his attributes of forgiveness and steadfast love,
			1. which are not known naturally through creation or the conscience of natural man, but only through the Word of God (Romans 10:14)
			2. Even those who hear the word of God cannot believe it naturally, but only through the working of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 2:14).

**How do we know that our God is the True God?**

1. Spiritually by faith Faith is created through internal testimony of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:15; Eph. 2:9-10), which comes from the external testimony of the scriptures (Romans 10:14).
	1. This faith is saving knowledge, it is certain in itself and doesn’t doubt, nor does it test God (Luke 4:12).
	2. The Word of God in scripture is not to be tested, but relied upon. All other knowledge is tested by what is revealed in scripture.

***4****Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.* ***2****By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,* ***3****and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.* ***4****Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* ***5****They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.* ***6****We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:1-6).*

1. Naturally, through history, science and reason
	1. History is only probable, Science is falsifiable; Reason is limited. All these are skeptical forms of knowledge. They are critical and require doubt to test knowledge.
	2. Natural knowledge may be helpful, and such proofs useful. But having historical, scientific, or reasonable knowledge of God does not save because it is not faith. Faith involves not merely intellectual knowledge, but most importantly trust, which is opposite of the skepticism required by man-centred knowledge.