**BIBLE TOPICS, SESSION 2**

1. **Why does man hate God?**
   1. Answer: Mankind, before regeneration, hates God because through Adam’s disobedience, all mankind has been by conceived in sin, and are by nature sinful and unclean.
      1. Every person from conception (Psalm 51:5) is spiritually blind (cannot understand the things of God), spiritually dead (cannot willingly obey or please God), and spiritual enemies (inborn hatred and repulsion of God’s Authority) of God.
         1. BLIND: 1 Cor. 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
         2. DEAD: Eph. 2:1 You were dead in the trespasses and sins.
         3. ENEMY: Rom. 8:7 The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God.
   2. It is only through illumination, regeneration, and reconciliation worked by the Holy Spirit through faith that one can understand, obey, and befriend/love God. This is made possible by the atonement that Jesus Christ made for sinners through his death on the cross.
2. **Why is there unbelief despite God’s natural manifestation?**
   1. Answer: Because mankind suppresses the knowledge of God in order to live comfortably in sin. They so *love* their sin that they may even fool themselves into thinking God does not exist (Atheism) or that He is of no consequence (Agnostic).
      1. Romans 1:18-32: **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. **24**Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25**because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **26**For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27**and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. **28**And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29**They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30**slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31**foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ***32Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them***.
      2. John 3:19-21: **19**And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, ***and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil***. **20**For ***everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed***. **21**But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”
      3. 1 Tim. 4:1-2: **4**Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by ***devoting themselves to deceitful spirits*** and teachings of demons, **2**through the insincerity of liars whose ***consciences are seared*,**
3. **What is pantheism?**
   1. Answer: Pantheism is the belief that God is consubatantial/identical with the universe. He/it is therefore immanent (within or identical to the universe), but does not transcend (operate outside of) the universe.
      1. Pantheism is true in a certain sense. “For in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).
      2. However He is also transcendent; before, outside, and above the universe. “…he *upholds the universe* by the word of his power” (Hebrews 1:3). “Every good gift and every perfect gift *is from above*, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).
4. **Why is [pantheism] prevalent today?**
   1. Answer: The bible doesn’t address pantheism. It chiefly addresses polytheism (e.g. Acts 17).
   2. However, Pantheism is attractive (thus prevalent) probably because it transcends a Creator/creature, good/evil, holy/common paradigm, and thus allows everyone to worship God, by worshipping a preferential aspect of creation in a way they see fit.
      1. Also the universe is subject to reason, so it is attractive to sinful man to believe that God is equally subject to the nature of things as we are and thus comprehensible/apprehensible, rather than inscrutable to reason (Romans 11:33).