BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY - PART 2: GOD

A. INTRODUCTION

"What you believe about God is the most important thing about you" (AW Tozer). How do you respond to this statement? A person's world and life view, or belief system, consciously or unconsciously shapes their attitudes, actions and lifestyle.

B. CONCEPT OF GOD

1. Many different opinions (man defining God from within the sphere of natural revelation)
   a. Impersonal, unconscious ground of all being/unknowable "1st cause" of everything
   b. Superhuman force/celestial policeman/sentimental "grandfather" in the sky
   c. Swear word/exclamation mark in the speech of many
2. Philosophical Positions
   a. Atheism – God does not exist ("There is no God")
      i. Consider the Bible's assessment of an atheist - Psalm 14:1
         - "fool": someone who speaks beyond his knowledge
            - People are neither omniscient (know everything) nor omnipresent (everywhere)
      ii. The conclusion of the "fool" contradicts all the evidence
         - creation, prophecy, Bible, testimonies of believers etc
   b. Agnosticism – one cannot know if God exists or not ("Is there a God?")
      i. Honest agnostic: "I just don't know"
      ii. Arrogant agnostic: "I just don't know; you don't know; nobody can know"
      iii. Bible response: Matthew 7:7-8 Honest seekers will find the truth
   c. Theism – belief in God ("There is a God")
      i. Polytheism: "many gods" – Mormons, animists etc
      ii. Pantheism: "God is in all" – Buddhism, New Age etc
      iii. Unitarianism: "One God" – Jews, Moslems etc
      iv. Trinitarianism: "One God in three persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit" - Christianity

C. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

1. God is knowable
   a. All people know something of God – Romans 1:21
      i. Knowledge: more than facts/information/propositions
      ii. Bible "knowledge": personal relationship/involves obedience – John 14:21
      iii. Incomprehensible until revealed/comprehensible
      iv. Transcendence/immanence
   b. God can only be known truly by special revelation – John 1:14; 14:9; Hebrews 1:1-2
   c. Bible reveals God as Lord – Exodus 3:15; Acts 2:36
      i. Creation – Psalm 24:1-2
      ii. Mankind – Romans 14:9
      iii. Covenant – Exodus 19:3-5; 20:2 (New covenant – Hebrews 9:15)
      iv. His people – Exodus 6:7
2. Some of God's revealed attributes
   a. Spirit: a person without a body – John 4:24
   b. Holy: morally perfect/righteous – 1 Peter 1:15-16
   c. Infinite: free from all limitations of time/space/power – Psalm 147:5
      i. Omnipresent: everywhere at the same/all time
      ii. Omniscient: knows everything at the same/all time

iii. Omnipotent: all powerful/can do whatever He chooses
iv. Absolute perfection in all spheres/realms/areas

d. Eternal: has always existed/always will exist – Psalm 90:2
i. No beginning/end
ii. Simultaneously beyond/within time

e. Unchangeable: always the same – Hebrews 1:11-12
i. Nature: consistent in love/mercy/holiness/goodness/grace/justice/wrath
ii. Purpose: promises/commands/requirements for man never alter

f. Sovereign: “large and in charge” (Jeff Vines) – 2 Chronicles 20:6
i. Everything/everyone is under His control/authority
ii. Everything/all that happens in His creation is in accord with His purpose (good)