LESSON 5*:* CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

(I) THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. The fact that there is a God is assumed throughout the Scriptures. The first verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:1, is an example. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God's existence is presented as a statement of fact that needs no proof. The man who says there is no god is called a fool in Psalms 14:1.

(A) However, even apart from the Bible, there are certain evidences for the existence of God.

(B) Mankind has always believed in a universal being.

(C) Creation must have a creator. The universe could not originate without a first cause.

(D) The wonderful design which we see in creation demands an infinite designer.

(E) Since man is an intelligent being, the creator must have been of a much higher order in order to create him.

(II) THE NATURE OF GOD

(A) God is Spirit - He is invisible

(B) John 1:18

(C) John 4:24

(D) God is a person. Personal names are used in reference to Him.

(E) Exodus 3:14

(F) Exodus 6:3

(III) THE ATTRIBUTES (CHARACTERISTICS) OF GOD

(A) Omnipresent (present everywhere) - Jeremiah 23:23, 24

(B) Omnipotent (all powerful) - Jeremiah 32:17, 27

(C) Omniscient (all knowing) - Job 34:21

(D) Eternal (everlasting) - Deuteronomy 33:27

(E) Holy (free from all defilement, absolutely pure) - Isaiah 6:3

(F) Righteous or just (always does what is right) - Psalms 145:17

(G) Merciful (doesn't give us what we deserve) - Deuteronomy 4:31

(H) Immutable (He doesn't change) - Malachi 3:6

(I) Truthful (cannot lie) - Titus 1:1, 2

(J) Awesome (inspiring awe which is reverent wonder tinged with fear) - Deuteronomy 7:21

(IV) PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS ASCRIBED TO HIM

(A) Knowledge - Isaiah 55:8-10

(B) Emotions - Genesis 6:6

(C) Will - Joshua 3:9, 10

(V) THE LOVE OF GOD

(A) What is the very essence of His nature?
1 John 4:7, 8, 16

(B) Whom does God love?

(1) God loves His Son - Matthew 3:17

(2) God loves the world - John 3:16

(C) How did God demonstrate his love for us? - Romans 5:8

(D) How do I experience God's love each day?

(1) Romans 5:5

(VI) THE FATHER IS GOD
The Father holds the place of authority within the Godhead. He is not more important than the Son or the Holy Spirit, but authorizes their ministries (John 6:38, 14:16)