

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Don worked as a missionary with the Australian Assemblies of God at Maprik in the East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea from January 1963 to December 1986. For most of that time, he was the principal of a Bible School there, teaching hundreds of men and women from various parts of the country. He was also the Director of Theological Education for the Assemblies of God in Papua New Guinea, responsible for the establishing and overseeing of three other Bible Schools throughout the country.

In 1966 he married a fellow missionary, Pearl Goodall. God blessed them with five children, Mark, Noel, Raymond, Esther and Ruth.

From 1987 until his retirement at the end of 1997, Don was principal of Rhema Bible College, a division of Calvary Assembly of God in Townsville, Queensland. During his retirement, he continued to teach for another nine years as a part-time lecturer at Strikeforce Ministry Training Institute in Brisbane. In 2007 and 2008 Don and Pearl accepted a request to return to Port Moresby as lecturer to the theological students at Jubilee University.

In the production of these notes, the author gratefully acknowledges the typing assistance of his wife, Pearl and also in recent times of Judy Coughley, Deb Williams and Robert Winnett. Appreciation is given also to John and Judy Rudderham for their Information Technology expertise.

In Don's early years he was a Chartered Accountant.

Don holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Bible from the I.C.I. University and a Master of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Luther Rice Seminary.

SAMPLE

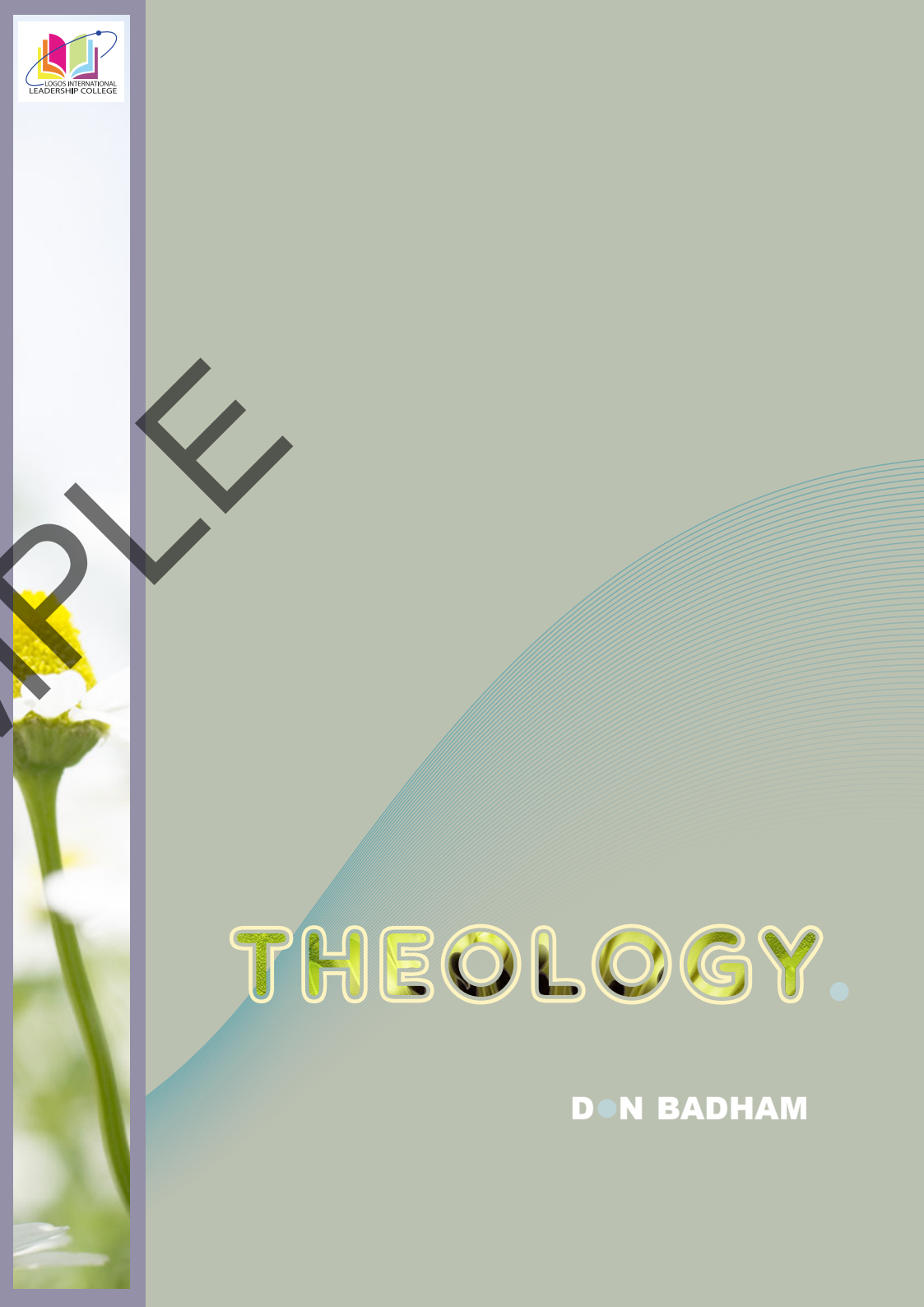
Books Series

ACTS
ANGELS
THE BIBLE
THE CHURCH
CULTS
END TIME EVENTS
GENESIS
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH
HOLY SPIRIT
JESUS CHRIST
KINGDOM OF GOD

LIFE OF CHRIST
MAN
MISSIONS
NEW TESTAMENT
OLD TESTAMENT
PRAYER
SALVATION
SATAN AND DEMONS
SIN
THEOLOGY

THEOLOGY.

DON BADHAM





... training leaders for the local church.

**Fully flexible training...
anyWhere, any Time, any Place**

- Christian Education Certificate
- Certificate in Ministry
- Diploma in Ministry
- Ministry Training Packages
- Short Courses

Scholarships Available

Visit our website or contact us for more information

LOGOS INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

17, Jalan Sayor, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +603 92213007 / 92210131

www.LogosCollege.org

registrar@logoscollege.org

Institutional Membership:



Asia Pacific Theological Association

*"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth"*

2 Tim. 2:15

THE MEANING OF THEOLOGY

This word means **a study about God**. A theologian is a person who studies a lot about him.

However, sometimes the word "theology" means a study about other things than just about God. Theology can be a study about human beings, angels, sin, salvation and end-time events. Theology teaches us what the Bible says about these things.

However in this study we are thinking about God only.

WE CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND ALL ABOUT GOD

In this study we will learn many things about God. But we must not think that we are able to learn everything about him. He is too great for us to be able to do that.

1. We can never fully understand his greatness.

"No one can completely understand how great you are". Ps 145:3 GNB

2. We can never fully understand his wisdom. Isa 55: 8 – 9.

God's wisdom is great. He was the one who decided how many stars there should be. He even gave each one of them a name. He made this great universe and cares for it. So it is surprising that he also thinks about us little humans on earth and cares for us. Ps 147: 3-6.

"His wisdom cannot be measured". Ps 147:5 GNB

3. We can never fully understand his knowledge. Rom 11:33 – 34.

God knows everything. He even knows more about us than we know ourselves. "I'm amazed at how well you know me. It's more than I can understand". Ps 139:6 NIV.

HOWEVER WE CAN KNOW ABOUT THIS GREAT GOD PERSONALLY

God is far greater than we little humans. Because of this we can never fully understand all about him. So it is surprising that we can know God personally, as a friend. We can never understand all about him. **But we can truly know him personally.**

We don't just know some facts about him. As Christians we can know him in a personal way. For example, people may know many facts about the Prime Minister. But that doesn't mean that they know him personally. However his friends know him personally. They spend time with him, talking with him, and he talks with them. They enjoy his company. We also can know God personally and enjoy his company.

The apostle John, as an old man, wrote to Christians, calling them "children". He encouraged them to know God personally.

"I write to you, dear children, because you **have known** the Father". 1Jn 2:13

Also he told them the reason why Jesus came to earth. It was that we could know God. 1Jn 5:20. Our sins are forgiven. So we can come to God often. We can know him as a friend.

GOD CAN DO ANYTHING. SO HE DOESN'T NEED ANYONE'S HELP

1. **God doesn't need a temple to live in.** He doesn't need food offerings. On his second missionary journey, Paul went to Athens. There he saw that the city was full of idols. Acts 17:16. The people in Athens made temples for their gods and goddesses to live in. They gave food and other things to them. They thought that their gods and goddesses needed these things. But Paul told them that the true God made the world and everything in it. So God doesn't need people to make a temple for him to live in. Also he doesn't need food offerings or anything else. Acts 17: 24 – 25

2. **God doesn't need animal sacrifices.** In the Old Testament God told Israel to offer sacrifices of animals and birds to him. These sacrifices pointed forward to the day when Jesus would come. Then he would be God's sacrifice for our sins.

When Asaph wrote Psalm 50, Israel had been faithful in offering sacrifices to God. But their reason for making these sacrifices was wrong. They thought that God was in need of them. They thought that he needed these animals and birds. They thought that these sacrifices were helping God in some way. So God should be thankful to them for bringing these animals and birds.

But in this psalm, God corrected their thinking. He told Israel that he didn't need these animals and birds. All the animals and birds in the world belonged to him. He didn't need to be thankful to them for bringing these sacrifices.

Verses 7 – 13.

These sacrifices were to help **them**. They were to help them have faith. When they made these sacrifices, they were to think of the coming Messiah. This Messiah would be the final and great sacrifice for their sins. So making these sacrifices was to help **them**. It was not to help God. God never needs help.

3. We mustn't think that God needs us in any way.

(a) He doesn't need our fellowship. He wants us to have fellowship with him. He loves and enjoys our fellowship. But we mustn't think that he needs it. He didn't create human beings or angels because he was lonely. God has never been lonely. He is a Trinity. The three Persons of the Trinity have always had very close fellowship together. They have always enjoyed each other's love. Jn 14:10-11; 17:21. Their fellowship with each other is a perfect fellowship. It is much greater than any fellowship we have had with God.

God wants us to have fellowship with him. But this is not because he is needy or lonely.

(b) He doesn't need our help to evangelise the world.

He has chosen us to work with him. He wants us to establish his kingdom on earth. We are his fellow workers. We work together with God. 1 Cor 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1; 1 Thess 3:2. He has chosen us to do the work of evangelism. He encourages us also to give money as offerings to his work. But he didn't choose us to do this because he needed us. It wasn't because he needed our service or money. God could have chosen to evangelise the world by himself. He could have broadcast the gospel from heaven. Or he could have chosen angels to preach the gospel. But instead he chose us to do it. (God sent an angel to Philip. This angel directed him to the place where the Ethiopian was in the desert. God wanted Philip, not the angel, to do this evangelism. Acts 8:26-27. Compare also Acts 10: 1-5).

Instead God has given us this privilege. He has done this because we are people who have experienced the blessing of salvation. We are the ones to do this work. We are the ones to give our offerings for this work. God wants us to serve people in need around us. This is a privilege that helps **us**. God wants **us** to have the joy of doing this.

(c) However by serving God we can bring great joy to him. God is already complete.

He doesn't need anything we can give to him.

He isn't short of anything.

However he created us for his glory. Isaiah 43:7. By living godly lives, we can glorify God. We must glorify him. However this is not to make his glory greater. His glory is already complete and full. Rather, when we glorify God, it is as if we are shining a light on his glory. Then others can see it better.

Also when we are obedient to him, this brings great joy to his heart. Zeph 3:17. God does not need us for anything. But he chose to create us so that we can give great joy to him. We should always be thankful for this.

SAMPLE

GOD IS SPIRIT

1. God is spirit. This means he does not have a physical body

People often wonder what God is made of. Does he have a physical body as we human beings have? The Mormons believe that he has. But this is wrong. God is not made of any kind of physical matter. He does not have a physical body. "God is spirit". Jn 4:24

(a) The woman of Samaria asked Jesus where God should be worshipped.

Jn 4:20. She thought that Jesus was a prophet. Jn 4:19. So she asked him upon which mountain should God be worshipped. Verse 20.

For hundreds of years the Jews and Samaritans had been enemies. They argued about what mountain God had chosen for people to worship him from. The Jews said that **Jerusalem** was the place God had chosen. That is why Solomon had built a temple there. When it was built, the glory of God came down and God lived in it. 1 Ki 8:11-13. But the Samaritans said that **Mount Gerizim** was the mountain God had chosen. This mountain was in the area where they lived. The Jews and Samaritans had argued about this for hundreds of years. Now this woman asked Jesus what he thought.

(b) It doesn't matter WHERE we worship. What matters is HOW we worship. This is because God is SPIRIT. Jn 4: 21 – 24.

Jesus told her that God had given revelation to the Jews, not the Samaritans. Verse 22. In the time of the Old Testament, God's presence had been in the tabernacle (Exod 40:34 – 38) and later in the temple in Jerusalem. However in Jesus' day the Jews had rejected him as their Messiah. So God's presence was no longer in this temple. The temple was now empty. Jesus said to the Jews, "Your house (temple) is left empty". Matt 23:37 – 38. N.I.r.V. Now we are living in the time of the New Testament. So if someone wants to worship God, it doesn't matter WHERE he or she is. Worship has nothing to do with a physical place. There is only one thing that is important. It is our spiritual condition. It doesn't matter WHERE we worship. It matters HOW we worship. This is because God is spirit. So God's presence is not in any one special place. As long as we are worshipping "in spirit and in truth", we can worship God anywhere. This means that our worship should be **true** worship, from the heart and the spirit.

God is spirit. So he is everywhere at the same time and can be worshipped anywhere.

2. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all spirit because they are God. But now the Son has a human body as well.

Throughout the time of the Old Testament, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were each spirit. They did not have a physical body. As spirit, they were everywhere.

However at the beginning of the New Testament, the Son became human with a physical body. He was then God **and** man. In heaven today he is still God **and** man. As man he is physically in only one place. He is in heaven. But as God, he is also still spirit. So he exists everywhere. Physically he is still in heaven. But as spirit he is present on earth also. When believers gather together, he is with them. Matthew 18:20.

3. Humans were made like God. Genesis 1:26 But we were not made like him physically. We were made like him in character.

Mormons believe that God has a physical body like us. This is what they say, "Humans have a physical body. If humans were made like God, then God must have a physical body like us." However this is wrong.

It is true that humans were made like God. But that does not mean that God must have a physical body. So in what way were humans made like God? Humans were made like him **in character**. He wanted humans to be righteous, loving, kind and holy like him. In this way we could have true fellowship with him. He made humans to be like him **morally**.

Of course, sin has spoiled this likeness. Now humans are not righteous and holy like God. However God is changing us Christians. He is making us new in our thinking. Slowly he is making us like him again in righteousness and holiness. "Your new life is created **to be truly good and holy, just as God is.**" Ephesians 4:23 – 24 N.I.r.V One day we will be completely like him. We will not be like him physically. We are physical. He is spirit. But we will be completely like him **in character. We will be holy and righteous.**

4. God is spirit. He doesn't really have physical eyes, ears or a mouth.

Sometimes the Bible talks about God as if he had a physical body.

For example, 1 Kings 8:29 refers to God as if he had eyes. Jeremiah 9:20 refers to him as if he had a mouth. Numbers 11:18 refers to him as if he had ears.

But these verses do not mean that he has a physical body with eyes, a mouth and ears. These verses are "figures of speech". They are "picture language".

These verses mean that God can communicate with us and we can communicate with him.

God is spirit. So he does not need physical eyes to know what we are doing.

He does not need a mouth to let us know what he is thinking. Also he doesn't need ears to know what we want to tell him.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

GOD

1. Have you always known about God? If so, did you have an accurate knowledge about him? Did you need to have some knowledge about God corrected? Tell about this.
2. Perhaps you once knew nothing about God. When you first learned about him, what facts about him impressed you most? What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you recently about God?
3. What thoughts do you have about God when you spend time looking up at the stars at night? What do non-Christians think about this?
4. God never changes. Have you ever thought about how difficult it would be for us if God does change from time to time? How would you feel, for example, if God loved you sometimes, but at other times he didn't – or if God is sometimes righteous, but sometimes he does evil things?
5. Can you give some examples of God's love in your life or in the lives of others?
6. "No one can completely understand how great you are". Ps 145:3. Does this verse disappoint you – the fact that you will never know all about God? Or does it make you excited, knowing that you will always be learning about his greatness?
7. God is the Creator of all things. This means that he is very great. Yet he is wanting to be a Friend to each one of us on this little planet called "earth". How does knowing this make you feel? Does knowing this make you want to have a closer personal relationship with him?
8. God is everywhere. Have you ever gone to a strange place where you felt afraid or lonely? Or have you ever faced a very difficult situation where you didn't know what to do? Did you then remember that God was with you? How should this make us Christians feel?
9. The Bible says that God knows everything, even the number of hairs on our head. He knows everything we think about and do. When we read about this in the Bible, how should this make us Christians feel?
10. Can God ever make a mistake? Will he ever make a mistake in your life? Has there ever been a time in your life when you thought God had made a mistake? Tell about this experience. As you think about this, does this knowledge give you comfort and hope?
11. "Every good and perfect gift is from God". James 1:17. See how many good gifts from God you can list on a piece of paper in 5 minutes. When you have finished, ask yourself how often you have an attitude of thankfulness to God for most of these gifts. Why do you think we tend to forget that these blessings come from God? What can we do to remember these blessings more often?
12. "God's love means that he is always giving of himself to others." Do you believe that this is true? In what ways could you imitate God's love this week?
13. God says, "Be holy, because I am holy". Lev 11:44. Are you growing in holiness? Are there things you are doing that are stopping you from growing in holiness? Are there people in your life that are doing this? What should you do about this?
14. God is a God of wrath (anger). He hates sin. Are you glad that God is like this? Should we too be sometimes angry when people sin? When would it be right for us to be angry?
15. Look around you and give some examples of good things that God has created. How can you show God that you are thankful for them?
16. The Bible tells us that God is always ready to help us in our need. Are there difficulties or hardships in your life at the moment? Give an example of a time when God helped you in a time of difficulty. How does this fact about God help you to face the future? Does this fact about God mean that you do not need to pray?
17. Do you do things that you think will bring you good luck? Do you avoid doing things because it will stop you from having bad luck? Are you trusting God when you do these things?
18. God the Holy Spirit lives in the temples of our physical bodies. Knowing this, how should we live from day to day?
19. Psalm 139 tells us that God knows everything. What other truths about God does this psalm tell us?

20. On judgment day all unbelievers will be punished. Do you have any unsaved friends and relatives? Have you told them yet about Jesus? What did they think about the gospel? Perhaps you could spend a little time now to pray for them.
21. How would you prove to an unsaved person that God is real?
22. Someone may say to you, "How can there be a God, if he lets children and good people suffer? How can you say that God loves us all when there is so much suffering and injustice in the world?" How would you answer that person?
23. Is God just and righteous when he sends unsaved people to hell? Would he be righteous, if he did not send them to hell?

SAMPLE