

The Truth Project

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Lessons from The Truth Project

Lesson 4 - Theology – Who is God?

In Lesson 4 of **The Truth Project**, a biblically grounded series produced by Focus on the Family, Dr. Del Tackett tackles one of the most fundamental questions of faith: “Who is God?” Through a theological lens, this lesson explores the existence, nature, and attributes of God, urging believers to deepen their understanding of the divine and its implications for their lives. Rooted in scripture and enriched with historical and theological insights, Tackett’s teaching equips Christians to navigate a world that often challenges the knowledge of God.

Introduction: The Study of God

Theology, as defined in the lesson, is the systematic study of God’s existence, nature, and attributes. Tackett anchors this exploration in Colossians 2:2-3, which declares that in Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” This verse positions Christ as the ultimate source of truth, a foundation that contrasts with human attempts to define God. Tackett references the Westminster Confession, a historic document crafted by theologians to articulate God’s nature. While valuable, such human traditions can only partially capture the infinite essence of God, reminding us of His transcendence and the humility required in approaching Him.

This introduction sets the stage for a journey into knowing God—not as an abstract concept but as a personal, relational being whose nature shapes our identity and purpose. Tackett’s approach is both intellectual and devotional, inviting participants to engage with theology as a means of encountering God Himself.

What is Eternal Life?

Tackett turns to scripture to define eternal life, emphasizing its relational core. Citing John 17:1-3, where Jesus prays, “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent,” he underscores that eternal life is not merely unending existence but an intimate knowledge of God. Supporting passages like Luke 18:18, John 3:16, John 4:13-14, John 5:24, John 5:39-40, John 6:27, and John 6:54 reinforce this theme, portraying eternal life as a dynamic relationship with the Creator.

Drawing from Charles Spurgeon and the Apostle Paul, Tackett highlights their shared passion: “I want to know Christ” (Philippians 3:10). This desire aligns with God’s own heart, as seen in Hosea 6:6 and Jeremiah 9:23-24, where God delights in those who know Him. This knowledge is not merely intellectual but transformative, fostering a deeper understanding of self in light of God’s character. Tackett argues that knowing God reveals our purpose as His image-bearers, connecting our identity to His divine nature.

The Meaning of Names

The lesson explores the significance of names in scripture, particularly God's names, which reveal His character. Tackett highlights **El Qanna**, meaning "a jealous God" (Deuteronomy 4:23-24, Exodus 34:14, Zechariah 8:2), which conveys God's passionate desire for exclusive devotion from His people. This jealousy is not petty but rooted in His covenant love, demanding loyalty in a world prone to idolatry.

Tackett extends this theme to biblical figures whose names changed to reflect their God-given identities: Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul. These transformations signify God's redemptive work, aligning individuals with His purpose. Similarly, believers are given a new identity as children of God, reflecting their adoption into His family. Tackett encourages participants to consider their own "name" or identity in Christ, emphasizing that knowing God reshapes how we view ourselves and our calling.

The Attack on God and His Word

Tackett frames the knowledge of God as a battleground, citing 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, which calls believers to "demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God." Throughout history, God's nature and Word have faced relentless attacks. Tackett points to the Jesus Seminar, a group of scholars who used a democratic voting process to determine the authenticity of Jesus' sayings, as an example of modern skepticism that undermines scripture's authority. Similarly, Ezekiel 22:26-28 condemns priests who "do violence to my law," distorting God's truth for personal gain.

To address doubts about biblical reliability, Tackett tackles supposed contradictions, such as the reigns of Joram and Jehoram, referencing Edwin R. Thiele's **The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings**. This work resolves chronological discrepancies, affirming that God's Word can withstand scrutiny. By equipping believers to defend scripture, Tackett underscores the importance of trusting God's revelation in a world that seeks to discredit it.

Conclusion: The Trustworthiness of God's Word

The lesson concludes with a powerful affirmation of scripture's reliability, drawing on 1 Peter 1:24-25, which declares, "The word of the Lord stands forever," and Hebrews 4:12, which describes God's Word as "living and active." Tackett emphasizes that the Bible is not a static text but a dynamic, God-breathed revelation that transforms lives. In a culture that questions absolute truth, **The Truth Project** calls believers to anchor their faith in the enduring Word of God.

By knowing God through His Word, Christians can resist attacks on His nature and truth, confidently living out their identity as His children. Tackett's teaching challenges participants to pursue a deeper relationship with God, trusting that His revelation is both trustworthy and life-changing.

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Insights from The Truth Project

Lesson 4 - Theology – Who is God?

In Lesson 4 of **The Truth Project**, Dr. Del Tackett explores the profound question, “Who is God?” through the lens of theology, the study of God’s existence, nature, and attributes. Anchored in Colossians 2:2-3, Tackett emphasizes that Christ is the ultimate source of truth, holding “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” While human efforts like the Westminster Confession attempt to articulate God’s infinite nature, they fall short of fully capturing His essence, highlighting the mystery and majesty of the divine.

The lesson delves into the scriptural definition of eternal life, which Jesus articulates in John 17:3 as knowing God and His Son. Passages like John 3:16 and John 5:24 underscore that eternal life is not merely endless existence but an intimate relationship with God. Drawing from Hosea 6:6 and Jeremiah 9:23-24, Tackett echoes Spurgeon and Paul, emphasizing that knowing God transforms our understanding of ourselves and our purpose. This relational knowledge is central to the Christian faith.

Tackett also examines the significance of God’s names, such as **El Qanna** (a jealous God, Deuteronomy 4:24), which reveal His passionate desire for exclusive devotion. Biblical figures like Jacob, Moses, and Saul received new names reflecting their transformed identities in God’s plan, underscoring the believer’s identity as a child of God.

The lesson addresses spiritual warfare, citing 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, which calls Christians to demolish arguments against the knowledge of God. Attacks on God’s nature and His Word have persisted throughout history, from the Jesus Seminar’s skeptical approach to scripture to ancient distortions condemned in Ezekiel 22:26-28. Tackett tackles supposed biblical contradictions, like the reigns of Joram and Jehoram, referencing works like **The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings** to affirm the Bible’s reliability.

In conclusion, Tackett reaffirms the trustworthiness of God’s Word, citing 1 Peter 1:24-25 and Hebrews 4:12, which describe it as enduring and living. **The Truth Project** encourages believers to stand firm in their faith, knowing that God’s revelation is both reliable and transformative. By knowing God, we find our true identity and purpose, grounded in His unchanging truth.

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