

LESSON 4

HOW CAN WE FIND GOD?

Reading : 1 John 4:7-20, Job 23:1

Memory verse : John 1:18

Theme : *To understand that it is impossible to find God through the wisdom and efforts of man and to receive blessings by submitting to divine revelations.*

Introduction: God is beyond the reach of man's wisdom and logic. The almighty and eternal God cannot be touched and analyzed by man who has limitations of space and time. We have seen that theories like evolution which do not accept the existence of God are not scientific truths but are just assumptions made by certain people. How can the little man find the almighty God? Man's wisdom has limitations. Sir Isaac Newton discovered the gravitational force of the earth. But no one has been able to find a reason for the gravitational force. Even then gravitation remains a reality. Some people try to find God through their knowledge and fail in their attempt. They become disappointed, stop their search and turn atheists. Theories like Socialism, Communism, Nationalism, Evolution, etc. become their religion to fill up the void in their life. But these theories do not give any lasting solution or peace to their hearts. The question of how to find God remains.

DIVINE REVELATIONS:

No one has seen God. But God was revealed by Jesus Christ (John 1:13). Man can find and understand God only through His revelations. He has to accept those revelations through faith. The understanding of God and spiritual experiences that man receives through revelations and faith are confirmed by logic. We can see that God has revealed Himself to man through many ways:

1. Nature: (Psa. 19:1-3, Rom. 1:19-20)

The starry heavens, the majesty of high mountain ranges, the vast expanse of the oceans, the beautiful plants and flowers, the mysteries of life and death, etc. declare the glory of God who is perfect and omniscient and the source of all goodness. Modern scientific discoveries, too, speak vividly about the greatness of the Almighty.

2. The conscience of man:

Man's conscience is the light of man's spirit. It speaks to us about God's holiness and love and warns us when we err against the will of God (Prov. 20:27).

3. The Word of God:

Bible is the written Word of God in which He has revealed Himself. It is divinely inspired and trustworthy. Bible is a compilation of 66 books written through divine inspiration by more than 40 writers during a period of 1600 years. Bible has found place in homes of the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned. It has been translated into the largest number of languages in the world and is the best seller at all times. It has been subjected to attacks by atheists, sceptics, philosophers and politicians. The mighty Roman emperor, Nero, burned many copies of the Bible. In communist countries like China, former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, Bible was banned and believers persecuted. But Bible has emerged victorious through all such situations. Governments have risen and fallen. Standard of living has improved greatly because of modern technologies. Destructive weapons like atom and neutron bombs are stockpiled by the super powers. In the midst of all these, Bible stands firm spreading the good news of peace and love and hope. Prophecies of the Bible written thousands of years ago are still being fulfilled in national and even scientific realms. God speaks to man through the holy Scriptures. His power and divine attributes are revealed through Bible.

4. Jesus Christ (John 1:18, 14:9-10, Col. 2:9):

God, who lives in unapproachable light and invisible to man, is revealed through Jesus Christ (John 1:18). God had been revealing Himself partly and in diverse ways through His prophets in olden times. But in the fullness of time we received the complete revelation through Jesus Christ (Heb.1:1-2). "God is love" (1 John 4:9). God's love was shown through the supreme sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (John 4:9-12).

God showed His love for us when we were yet sinners, weak, ungodly and enemies (Rom 5:6-10). Jesus personified God's attributes like righteousness, holiness and mercy. "In Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Col. 2:9). Those who believe in Christ and accept Him as their Saviour and Lord, find God. And they receive abundant blessings from Him.

THE FAILURE OF THE SEEKERS OF GOD:

Why do many people fail in their attempt to find God?

1. Sin has blinded man (2 Cor. 4:4). Therefore man does not receive the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Sin has made man deaf (1 Cor. 2:14). The natural man does not accept the counsel of the Holy Spirit. He closes his ears to the hearing of the gospel.
3. Sin makes man dead (Eph. 2:1). Sin entered the world through one man and death entered through sin. As all have sinned, death has spread into all men.

As man has become blind, deaf and dead because of sin, he will not be able to find God through his own efforts. If a radio is broken inside, it will not be able to get contact with the transmitting station. So man needs a Saviour to save him from his sins. Jesus Christ came in to this world to save sinners. When man takes refuge in the Saviour, his inner eyes will be opened, his ears will hear the voice of God and will receive abundant life. He will then receive divine revelations and grow in the knowledge of God. Have you entered into this blessed experience?

Questions

1. Why is man unable to understand God by his own wisdom?
2. What are the media through which man receives divine revelations?
3. Explain the importance of the Word of God.
4. Where do we see the full revelation of God?
5. What are the reasons for the failure of the seekers of God? What remedy is open to them?

