Section: Doctrine of God

**TEACHING NOTES**

Good evening Disciples church family. I am so excited to be leading you tonight and next week through our next two Q&A’s in our word of truth catechism. These next two question and answer sets are so closely related that I’ll have us read them both each night and unpack them progressively while I point out the overlapping connections. So I will start by reading the questions and I’d like you to respond by reading out loud the answer. We are going to do both questions (#2&#3) then dive in.

**Q2. Are there more gods than one?**

**No. There is only one true God.**

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

**God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

Our focus tonight will primarily be on question 2 and we will begin unpacking question 3 near the end of our lecture time. To be clear we will see some overlap. These two questions have some complicated layers and they **ARE NOT** openhanded topics. What this means is that if someone were to deny these truths then they are NOT truly Christian. There are many open-handed topics - things two genuine believers can disagree on and still be genuine believers - however these two doctrines tonight are not open handed. That’s why this really is such a big deal. In fact, I bet if I were to ask you to stand in your place and unpack the trinity for everyone most of you would feel a bit of a knot in your stomach, right? I mean It’s not a simple topic and I think many times well-meaning believers avoid these things simply because they are complex.

These two truths are a primary point at which the majority of our world’s false religions hinge. What I mean is that the majority of false religions in the world prove they are false based upon a denial or twisting of these two truths. I am prayerful that our time tonight and next week will be beneficial for your understanding of the topics.

Before we dive in I want to make the weight of these doctrines and their importance understood. The topic of the number of Gods that exist and the Trinitarian nature of the one true God are vital to our faith. Some false religions claim to believe in *one* God but deny the deity of Jesus. Many false religions claim there are many gods not just *one.* None of these false beliefs match up with the God of scripture. In fact many of the false religions that are the *most dangerously convincing* false religions are the ones who take some truth and mix it with error so that it seems likely or plausible. In the end ultimately they are worshiping a god that does not exist because it is not the God of scripture. For example, Mormons proclaim to believe in Jesus as lord and savior (however, in their view, he is one god among many and you and I can become gods one day of our own planets), Jehovah’s Witness claim to believe in the god of the bible and Jesus as a god (but the key here is that, in their view, he’s a lesser god whom the one true God created-this is NOT what the bible teaches). Muslims believe God is Allah and that He is ONE but they do not believe in Jesus as god rather they claim he is a prophet. The Oneness Pentecostal church believes in one God who takes on the form of the father, son, and spirit at different times. They are called modalists because they believe God takes on these different modes but they DO NOT believe that God exists eternally as three distinct persons.

In all off these false religions we see a fundamental misunderstanding of the triune nature of God. Here’s why this matters so much, if you trust in Jesus, but the “Jesus” you trust in is not God, can you be saved? The plain answer is NO.

If you believe in a “Jesus or a God” that does not exists, then your faith is in falsehood and God does not simply give you a pass because you got close. To be clear you and I are not saved by the **depth** of our knowledge ***about*** God but we are most certainly **ONLY** saved by faith in the **ONE TRUE GOD**!

There are study points that genuine believers can disagree on, however when it comes to these two catechism questions, if they are denied then the one who denies them is NOT a true believer. These are not open handed theological topics or doctrines. If someone denies the trinity or the fact that there is only one God then they are not truly saved. This is a really big deal and I am excited to help you have a good and right understanding of these truths so that when someone asks you about the trinity you will be equipped and confident to answer well! With that let’s dive in, I’m going to read question 2 again you don’t need to respond this time.

**Q2. Are there more gods than one?**

**No. There is only one true God.**

This truth is clearly proclaimed all throughout scripture and it is one of the most foundational truths of the early church. Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” Well there you go right? No need to spend more time here, this passage says the Lord is one, with how clearly that is proclaimed we can head to group time right!? In one sense it really is that simple, the truth that there is only ONE GOD is simple and clear, however in another sense given the triune nature of the one true God we need to do real business with this question. Rightly understanding the truth that there is only one God will help to lay a proper foundation for question 3 in regard to the trinity. Just so we are all on the same page I’m going to read question three again as well.

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

**God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

If the scriptures are so clear about there being only ONE true God, then what’s the hang-up on this topic. Well if you’ve ever had the chance to witness to a Mormon they will often quote a passage that seems to say there are gods many and lords many.

1 Cor. 8:5-6 5For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— 6yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Mormons often interpret this passage to say there are many Gods but the only God for our planet (some will go so far as to say our universe) is Heavenly Father and the only Lord for us is Jesus. CHURCH pay attention here because it really can (when pulled out of the immediate context and tota scriptura) sound convincing and has led many people astray. When Mormons say they think this passage proves there are many gods and lords it does sound plausible. However, when we look carefully at the passage we will see how utterly short this interpretation falls in light of the context of the passage.

When we look at the context of Paul’s epistle to the Corinthians in this section Paul is speaking of eating food that has been sacrificed to idols. Paul clearly says in verse 4:

4Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “**an idol has no real existence**,” and that “**there is no God but one**.” Now what could Paul possibly mean then if he says we KNOW there is no God but one, and a few breaths later says there are gods many and lords many. Clearly Paul has stated that there’s only one God, in fact when Paul says there are many “so-called gods” he is rebuking the peoples practice of Idolatry. Paul is saying the culture and the people at the Corinthian church are surrounded by Idols (idols are not truly gods they are all fakes) and so Paul says there may be “so-called gods in heaven or earth” and then goes on to say indeed there ***are*** many “gods” and “lords”. What Paul is essentially saying here is that there are many fake gods that’s why he has to address the topic of food sacrificed to idols in the first place.

Paul is really rebuking the practice of idolatry and mocking the fake gods many and lords many that he referring to. The people at the Corinthian church or those who may read this letter later should read this and see the irony of worshiping something that is not real. Paul says look around there are many false, fake gods and lords that people have made into idols. Paul is saying that the people have made “gods many and lords many” but none of these are truly God. That’s what he’s unpacking in this passage. So when it comes to this passage the truth is actually quite clear and in alignment with our q&a. Are there more Gods than one? No there is only one true God.

With that clarity, where else do we see this truth in scripture? Open your bibles to the book of Isaiah. I will be jumping through a few chapters but before I do that let me give you some background so you can see why this section of scripture is clearly pronouncing that God is one!

The book of Isaiah is broken up into two major sections, you have the life of the prophet Isaiah where he warns the people of God over and over again that they will be punished for their idol worship and their turning away from the one true God, followed by a prophetic declaration of hope in the future messiah. This theme repeats all throughout the first section of Isaiah. We then see Isaiah’s prophecies come true and Israel is exiled into Babylon. In chapter 40 we see Israel return from exile and the book of Isaiah declare that God is the only God and the future hope of the messiah will come to pass. In a short verse in chapter 40 the Israelites complain and basically say maybe this God is not the true god because we were left in exile for so long. Perhaps we should turn to the gods of the people who captured us. This is a set up for the next chapters 41-46 to declare how God is the ONLY God and that the idols of these other nations are nothing. When the very nation of Israel (God’s chosen nation in the old covenant) declare that maybe He isn’t God, God answers and answers sternly about who He is and the FACT that there are no other gods but Him! If this doesn’t show us the clarity that God is the one true God then I cannot think of another circumstance where this could be more proven. So now that I’ve laid some foundation I’m simply going to say the chapter and verse and you’ll need to jump along quickly with me as we look at these various passages. Remember God is destroying the idea that there may be “other gods” and declaring with supreme authority that He is the only God and that there is only ONE GOD.

Isaiah 40:27-28 27Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? (this is where the people are questioning the Lord) 28Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. God begins to lay the foundation of who He is here.

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? **I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he**.

Isaiah 41:16 you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:10 “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

**Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. 11I, I am the LORD,**

**and besides me there is no savior**.

Isaiah 44:6-8 6Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “**I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7Who is like me?** Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Isaiah 45:5-6 5 **I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God**;

I equip you, though you do not know me, 6that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that **there is *none besides me*; I am the LORD, and there is no other**.

Isaiah 45:14b … (speaking of highly esteemed people from various places) They will plead with you saying: “Surely God is in you, and **there is no other, no other God besides him**.”

Isaiah 45: 18For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): **“I am the LORD, and there is no other.**

Isaiah 45:21-22 21Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And **there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me**. 22 “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For **I am God, and there is no other.**”

Isaiah 46:9-10 9remember the former things of old; for **I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me**, 10declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

From chapters 40-47 God utterly mocks idols asking them to tell Him what the future would hold and what the past did hold. He even goes so far as to say tell Him why the past holds what it does and why the future holds what it does. He proclaims over and over again I alone am LORD, I alone am God, besides me there is no other, besides me none can know the future the past and the purpose of both, besides me there was no creator, all of these fake gods all these idols are fashioned by men they had to be made but I the LORD am from everlasting to everlasting, I am God and there is no other!

God so clearly declares in these chapters that He knows of no other god, He is the alpha and the omega the beginning and the end the first and the last there are NO OTHER gods!!!!!

God never in all of these passages says there are more than one God. So let me wrap up our time on this first question with a few more verses.

Jeremiah 10: 10But the LORD is **the true** God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

Here is another really interesting note, whenever the Lord is proclaiming that He is one (that there is no other) it almost always seems to be on the heels of rebuking Idolatry. We’ve now seen this truth in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians (the first verse we spoke about today an epistle) Isaiah’s prophecy to the old covenant nation of Israel (the second set of scriptures that we read today a prophetic book), and here in Jeremiah (a Historical book). Why draw out that significance? Well no matter what the writing style seems to be, when people are in danger of or already guilty of worshiping idols God graciously and boldly/directly reminds them that there are no other gods. He is gracious to tell them this truth and he typically does it in a very harsh fashion for He is a jealous God! There is only One God and He will not give His glory to another! I bring up this point to put a bow on this section, I told you in the beginning of the night that these two questions and a right understanding of them are vital to avoiding false religions and grave errors. I said that most false religions hinge here at this very vital point and God declares regularly when idolatry is at play that He alone is God! So, I hope you see that I am not telling you any new thing but that I am echoing what God has said to His people all along. There are no other god’s you must get this right or it leads to idolatry and God will not allow His glory to be given to another. I had said earlier God won’t give you a pass because you got close, God will not share His glory! Let’s read our last passage and see this point again clearly before we move on to question 3.

Deuteronomy 4:35 “To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.”

If you look at the bigger context of this passage in Deuteronomy you’ll see that Moses just got done warning the people about idolatry. So he caps this point off by declaring what God has done before their very eyes and Moses says that God was gracious to choose them and reveal to them that He alone is God, there are no others beside Him. I also included a few verses after that to help wrap up the problem and bring some clarity.

Duet. 4:39know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. 40Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

Moses says lay it to your heart there is only one God and He is Yahweh. Again remember the concern that people will chase after other gods who aren’t actually real. It seems the condition of the sinful heart is to make gods who suit your fancy so that ultimately you can be your own god. The reality is if you or I can fashion it then it most certainly isn’t God. If God never offends you, if God never contradicts your fallen desires, then the God you worship probably isn’t the God of scripture. Consider this, we fall so short of Gods requirements that surely our desires and His desires will not always be the same. God declares as much when He says His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are much higher than ours. So if you see God rightly, He will surely rebuke us, correct us, contradict our fallen desires, as He constantly did with the very people Moses was speaking to. I included verse 40 to show us this point. God is the only God there are no others and since this is true, (notice the therefor that verse 40 begins with) we are called to obedience. Therefore you shall keep His statues…You see when we rightly acknowledge that there is only one God and Yahweh is that God then we must also acknowledge that we are to submit to Him. He is due all respect, honor, and obedience.

Now I want to submit to you that therein lies one of sinful man’s greatest problems. I had read our first verse earlier and declared the passage to be so clear that we could just finish right there. I then said but it is more complicated than that and I began to reveal to you pieces of the trinity. The reason we struggle so much with the truth that there is only One God and that this truth is clear proclamation throughout scripture is twofold.

1st It’s because we don’t want to submit to the one true God, our flesh wars against it. If we can make a god that fits our desires then we can chase those desires out and be “free” as we might call it, free to do what we like. It is again the battle within us to want to be our own god. If there is only One God then we cannot be god and that’s a real struggle for man since eve in the garden.

2nd We regularly try to get God to fit our natural human understanding. When there are truths proclaimed in scripture and we do not have a natural mental category for them we try and make them fit what we know. This is backwards, if God declares two things to be true and we don’t understand because we don’t see how they can be from our own perspective and experience then we don’t get to change what God has said. Let me rather say this, it is so very helpful for us when we are at a crossroads of our thoughts verses Gods thoughts to add a new mental category.

What I mean is this, nothing in our lives or the physical universe around us has one being and three persons for us to compare God too. Since this is the case we often try to use things we do have in our world, however unfortunately they all fall into heretical errors when we look at them closely. For example, many times growing up I’ve heard it said that the trinity is like water, it can be frozen, liquid, or steam. The problem here is that in order for water to be frozen, or liquid, or steam it would have to be divided. God is not divided. Remember there are distinctions in the Godhead but not division. I’ve heard it said that God is like a three-leaf clover, it’s one clover with three leaves on it. The problem here is that we have unity without distinction in their function. The one being of the clover has three leaves, but all three leaves have the same function, there’s no distinction in how they work and what they do. Consider the egg example some try to use (yoke, white, and shell-3 parts, of one egg), it ends up giving us the same problem of division as the water example the list goes on and on. Quite simply put we need to make a new category in our minds. God’s ways are not our ways His thoughts are not our thoughts, so we need to file this in a category that is new to us. It is not something that can be compared to in our physical universe. I’ve really found this to be a helpful practice and to avoid error in doctrine and theology. There are theological topics that have some mystery and need their own box. Now before we go too far off the track let me be clear, God has given us His word in the scriptures and they have shed much light on who God is and how things are to be. When God’s word gives us a topic that has mystery we should do all we can to understand all He’s given us and then, and I’d say only then, rest with the fact that Him being God means we will not 100% comprehend some things. We can know these things rightly, we can be 100% correct about them and their truthfulness, we just may not know them completely meaning we may not fully understand the depths and complexity of something. As pastor Rob taught last week, we cannot know God exhaustively, but we can know Him truly based on a right understanding of Scripture. So we can and are correct to say that God eternally exists as one God, three persons but we may not fully comprehend that truth until God unpacks it further for us on the other side of glory. However, this does not mean we should throw it out as mystery and never work to rightly understand it. We should do all we can to rightly understand this truth in so far as we are capable because it is a truth about our great God!

So with that let’s read questions 3 and begin to dive into its truths. I’ll read the question will you please respond with the answer.

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

**God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

One of the best places to start is with some definitions of terms. Here is our definition of the Trinity in our word of truth catechism:

**Trinity:** One God, three Persons. There is but one eternal Godhead that exists in three co-equal, co-eternal Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully and completely God; each has the same essence and is described in Scripture as possessing the attributes of God.

The Baptist Confession of Faith declares this of the Godhead: “The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God. ((Yes, we just covered that. It continues,)) This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons, the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided.”

Now it would help to do a little more defining of terms so we can overcome some common mistakes. When we use the word person in our common English language we never think to separate personhood from being.

**ILL: Water bottle exists therefore it has being, I exist therefore I have being. Water bottle doesn’t have personhood. If I crush it and throw it away no one cares for the bottle as if I’ve hurt it. One of the more popular things to do this last year is to toss water bottles across some distance and see if you can get them to land upright. Everyone thinks that’s fun and pretty amazing when someone does it in a very tricky way. However if I snuck in the babies room during a lecture and started tossing babies in the air hoping to get one to land on their feet you would rightly lose your mind and I’d be arrested. Because children have personhood and being, the water bottle only has being. Do you see the difference? When the early church fathers used this language this is what they meant. God exists eternally as one being and three persons. Now unfortunately our world has ascribed personhood to way too many things. Our pets have become our children. I’m not against you enjoying your pets. But don’t elevate a pet beyond God’s design for them. He created a clear distinction between humans and lower beasts…it doesn’t honor God to blur that distinction or make light of the differences. And this mixing of priorities is shown in this, can you imagine the moral outrage that would take place if someone were dismembering puppies limb by limb and yet here in our very own country human babies in the womb are being dismembered daily. Yet the outrage over murder of humans in the womb doesn’t measure up to the crime…. God’s crown of creation is being murdered, and its silence in the news. That’s a real problem. I don’t want us to get too distracted though I’m using this illustration to prove a point that language matters and words have meanings that need to be unpacked for us to rightly understand things.**

So moving on, God eternally exists as one God three persons. I used a phrase earlier that I’ll continue to use it goes like this, “distinction without division”. The three persons of the triune God are distinct, but they are not divided.

One example of distinction is in role…The Father sends the Son, the Son dies for the elect, the Spirit causes new birth and regeneration within the elect person unto salvation. God the Father elects, Christ comes and pays the sacrifice, the Holy Spirit makes the election and atonement a reality for the once dead in sin person when He causes new life! They each play distinct roles but none of them are lesser in value dignity or worth.

Now if you are familiar with our marriage series this ought to sound similar to something else you’ve heard. The husband and wife (male and female) are equal in dignity and value, however they are given distinct roles by God. That does not mean one is more valuable or less valuable because of the distinction of these roles. This is something our society has truly failed to comprehend.

When God declares that we are made for His glory and that He has a design for us as male and female, He also declares that we are equal in dignity, value, and worth. Just think of all the trouble our society could avoid if they understood the difference between distinction and division. The distinction of roles in marriage never affects the value of the person, and this is certainly true in the Godhead. The Son is not less than the Father, the Spirit is not less than the Son etc. The Father, Son, and Spirit have different functions or roles that they willingly perform but they do not have a different value or dignity, for they are all fully God.

Here is a helpful quote from RC Sproul in his booklet titled “What is the Trinity”: **“It is the prerogative of the theologian to make fine distinctions; that is what theology is about. Therefore, I tell my students, “One of the most important distinctions you will ever learn to make is the one between a distinction and a separation.” We say that a human being is a duality—he has a physical dimension and a non-physical dimension, which the Bible describes in terms of body and soul. If I distinguish a person’s body from his soul, I do no harm to him, but if I separate his body from his soul, I not only harm him, I kill him. By not grasping the difference between distinguishing and separating, Nestorius essentially destroyed the biblical Christ. This truth is useful at many points in biblical interpretation. For instance, Jesus sometimes said that there were things He did not know. Theologians interpret those statements as evidence that Jesus’ human nature is not omniscient. Of course, His divine nature is omniscient, so when Jesus spoke of something He did not know, He was manifesting the limitations of His human nature. Likewise, it’s clear that Jesus perspired, became hungry, and had His side pierced, but we do not believe that the divine nature perspired, became hungry, or had its side pierced, because the Lord’s divine nature does not have a body. Those were all manifestations of His humanity. Jesus has two natures, a divine nature and a human nature, and at times He reveals His human side, while at other times He reveals His divine side. We can distinguish the two without separating them. But when the human nature perspires, it is still united to a divine nature that does not perspire.”**

So the Godhead exists as One God and three persons. There are distinctions between the persons but not division of the Godhead. The persons willingly fulfill different roles but this does not make them of lesser value or subordinate as our understanding of subordinate goes. Jesus is not the Father, the Father is not the Spirit, the Spirit is not Jesus or the Father. They are however all God. Each person is fully, completely God. They never act outside of the will of God. The three persons are unified in will and never contradict in deed or thought. So we can see this is complicated. We want to be careful not to wrongly represent the trinity and we want to be careful not to set aside the hard work of understanding because of the fact that there is some mystery here. The three persons of the Godhead have always existed.

To these points, let’s hear from the historic confession again: “All three (Persons of the Godhead) are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations.”

There was never a time when one of them came into being. This means that they are also not created. This distinction is extremely important. Jesus was not created at some point in time. Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Father have always been. In the gospel of John we actually see these truths specifically about Christ in the clearest ways.

John 1:1 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

This term for in the beginning here is meant to get your attention. It’s meant to point you to the Genesis account of creation, Genesis also starts with this phrase “In the beginning”. We can see this truth even clearer in the fact that John goes on to say everything that became, became because of this Word, who we find out later in verse 14 is Christ Jesus.

Just consider the parallels between Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1-3. In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth-Genesis 1:1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (the Word is called He showing personhood) was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE! The literal translation was nothing became that has become. If it has come into existence, then it came through Jesus--the Word. The very Word who was God and was with God in the beginning.

Verses 1 and two of chapter one in Johns gospel is Johns way of saying Jesus was the same God who we heard about in the synagogue’s as the priest read from Genesis that in the beginning God was! He, God, existed, from eternities past to eternities future, God was and is and always will be. God is the uncaused cause. He is the always has been, never coming into existence at a point in time. John is saying that same God of Genesis is the same God who is Jesus. He gives personhood to this Word when he proclaims that HE was with God in the beginning. And he places an exclamation mark on His point when he says that heaven and earth that was created by God in genesis that was done through Jesus. Jesus created all things, nothing became apart from Christ Jesus who was and is eternally God. Now we see some language here in this first chapter of John that reveals distinction. The Word was God and He was WITH God. So remember we don’t see division here just distinction.

Now with this passage so clearly declaring these things why are so many confused when it comes to this truth? Well it does in most cases go back to my earlier comment that we rebel against these truths because they don’t make sense to us. Consider this, Jehovah’s witnesses who deny that Jesus is God have gone so far as to change their translation of scripture to say Jesus was a god not Jesus was God. Now if this passage didn’t clearly proclaim that Jesus was God why would the new world translation (the Jehovah’s Witness bible) have to add to the wording here? They do it again elsewhere when it says that Jesus made all things, they add the word “other” so that they can insist that Jesus was made and still made all “other” things. Remember as I said earlier most false religions hinge on this point and I’d submit to you now that they do so because false religions are manmade, and man does not have a category for the one true God being three persons. Therefore, they must corrupt it to fit their own minds and their failed false religions.

Now what we should do is be encouraged that the bible truly does say Jesus is God. All things that came to be “became” because of Him. If a false religion has to add to scripture in order to maintain their false beliefs, it ought to encourage us that we are correctly interpreting the passage. If I said the scriptures never say Jesus is God and then you show me where it does indeed say this truth, if I have to pull out a different translation to argue I’m clearly wrong. To be clear there are zero instances in all the historical manuscript copies that we have of John that these added words from Jehovah’s witnesses NWT should be there. NONE so don’t fear their sinful additions they were never part of the original author’s work and that’s for certain!

With that we will pick up here next week and continue in our study on question 3. I know there are many things still hanging in the air for this topic, don’t worry or lose focus by thinking of those things, rather focus on what we have discussed tonight in your groups and rest assured that we will as much as time allows connect the missing dots next week!

Let’s pray!