

SESSION TWO: Knowledge of God Today. How it is Possible.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident among them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:18-22)

See also Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31; Nehemiah 9:6-10

1. The three stages of theistic evidence:
 - A. Uncaused cause, a self-sufficing being.
 - ◆ The impossibility of an infinite sequences of cause of this event.
 - B. It's character as mind:
 - ◆ Self-initiation. Not causally determined.
 - ◆ "Design" capacity. Our experiential data.
 - ◆ The follies of mere "logical possibility"
 - And the anthropic principle.
 - C. "Interventions." The Covenant-making Creator.
 - ◆ Psalm 8—"What are human beings that you pay attention to them?"
 - ◆ The presence of the kingdom now. Jesus' gospel.
 - ◆ "Religious experience" not solely a matter of "mystical states."
2. Why God is a hidden God. (Isaiah 45:15; Job 23:9; Jeremiah 29:13; Matt. 6:32)
 - What would life be like if he were not?
 - What would make human history, life on earth, a good thing?
 - A community of morally glorious persons in which God dwells eternally?
 - How to be "safe" in this world.
3. Room to choose. Bertrand Russell and Norwood Hansen.
 - Why "more evidence" would not help.
 - The question is: What do you want? What would you prefer to be devoted to?
 - To overwhelm your wants would only yield "a man convinced against his will."
—Screwtape again.
4. "Hearing God" today. — Seeking and finding.
 - Accepting the evidence because we want it to be so.
 - ◆ Spirit wants to be wanted.
 - ◆ This does not give the evidence validity, but it allows it to "carry weight" with "seekers."