

1) How Do We Find God?

a) General Revelation...God known in the light of nature and in the works of creation.

i) Arguments from "nature" for the existence of God

(1) Why is there something rather than nothing at all. Where did all we see come from? People have drawn comfort and gotten direction from the idea that we come from God and return to God.

(2) The universe shows purpose and design. It seems fantastic to assume that what we see in all of its intricacy and complexity is the product of blind forces.

(3) Personal experience and world history point to a God who is somehow involved with us.

(4) Conscience is an indicator of God's existence.

(5) Our mind can map out the universe to some degree and this points to a Cosmic Mind behind it all.

ii) Three Christian positions on the value of General Revelation.

(1) This is the most certain knowledge of God which we can have. If what we learn from Special Revelation is contrary to it then Special Revelation is wrong. For example if we learn from experience and history that it is dangerous and foolish to love our enemies then that command must be wrong.

(2) General Revelation gives only incomplete and preliminary knowledge of God. Special revelation corrects and completes it.

(3) General Revelation is totally useless; it is misleading and false and should be ignored...Barth

iii) Westminster on General Revelation It is "not sufficient to give the knowledge of God and his will which is necessary for salvation."

iv) However we should take it seriously:

(1) It's arrogant to claim the only true knowledge about God is found in our sacred writings.

(2) Even scripture points to the value of General Revelation: Paul in Romans

(3) It provides a good starting point in discussions with non-believers about the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

(4) The Bible urges us to look at the work of God's hands. "The heavens are telling of the glory of God" (Ps 19).

v) And yet there are problems with it

(1) Not convincing

(2) Doesn't take into account all the negative things we experience in nature. What does a hurricane that kills hundreds say about God?