Light and Life Class (December 9, 2018)

“To Know Me is to Love Me: The Omniscience of God”

“What did the president know, and when did he know it?”

(Sen Howard Baker, R-TN, during the Senate Watergate hearings of 1973-1974)

A. Definition: God’s omniscience means that in a single act of knowing:

1. the Lord know exhaustively all things past, present, and future; and

2. the Lord knows exhaustively all things both actual and possible.

B. There are two ways in which the Bibles teaches that God “knows.”

1. God “knows” in the sense of personal relationship with his people (e.g., John 10:14; 2 Timothy 2:19; etc.).

2. God “knows” in the sense of having cognitive understanding (e.g., passages cited below in C).

C. God knows “everything” (Job 37:16; John 16:30; 21:17; 1 John 3:20; etc.).

1. including his own plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11)

2. including the secret thoughts of our hearts (Mark 2:8)

3. including our personal situations (Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15)

4. including all our needs, before we pray and set them before the Lord (Matthew 6:8)

D. God’s knows the future exhaustively.

1. It is God’s exhaustive knowledge of the future that sets him apart from the false gods (Isaiah 44:6-8).

2. Here are just two of the remarkable biblical examples of God’s exhaustive knowledge of the future.

a. Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1, which verses named King Cyrus of Persia by name and prophesied what he would do for the Jews at least 120 years before Cyrus was even born

b. Micah 5:2, which named the birthplace of the Messiah more than 700 years before the event (cf. Matthew 2:4-6)

3. Contrast the beliefs of the movement called Open Theism.

4. just three of the practical reasons why it is such god news for Christians that God has exhaustive knowledge of the future

a.

b.

c.

E. God knows the possible which we call his “middle knowledge.”

1. Examples in 1 Samuel 23:6-13; Matthew 11:20-24; etc.

F. What do we mean by the phrase “a single act of knowing?” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology,* p. 191)

G. Just two more of the practical implications of God’s omniscience

1.

2.