

Breakout Group - Handout 1

How and why is the message of special revelation different than the message of natural revelation? In order to further investigate this question, we will ask some specific questions that will lead us to an answer.

- What is the message of natural revelation? Read Psalm 19:1-6 and Romans 1:20.

- What is the message of special revelation? Read Psalm 19:7-8 and Romans 10:13-15.

- Why is natural revelation insufficient to lead men to a saving knowledge of God? Read Genesis 1:31, 3:7, and 3:17-21.

Breakout Group - Handout 1 - Answers

How and why is the message of special revelation different than the message of natural revelation? In order to further investigate this question, we will ask some specific questions that will lead us to an answer.

- What is the message of natural revelation? Read Psalm 19:1-6 and Romans 1:20.
The message of natural revelation is the existence, the natural, and some degree of the moral attributes of our God. We can tell from creation that God exists, that He must come before all things, is amazingly powerful, intelligent, and benevolent. Specific examples of these attributes are found throughout creation.
- What is the message of special revelation? Read Psalm 19:7-8 and Romans 10:13-15.
The message of special revelation is the path to the restoration of a relation with the Living God. We learn about the identity and full character of our God, the nature of our fall, our current state of sin and impending punishment, the fullness of His love through the sacrifice of His Son, how we can be restored to a relationship with Him, and our future hope in His presence. It is the message of salvation.
- Why is natural revelation insufficient to lead men to a saving knowledge of God? Read Genesis 1:31, 3:7, and 3:17-21. When God finished His work of creation, it was declared good, meaning that it was right, proper, and complete. He had left His fingerprints across creation and walked with man in His own presence. Creation was not created for corruption. When sin entered, man's understanding of natural revelation began to fail. It is as if men forgot how to read the language of creation, and misinterpreted the clear symbols in an increasingly sinful manner. Also, creation was not endowed with the gospel message because it was unnecessary before the fall. It was only when sin entered that more revelation became necessary because man's relationship with God was broken. Special revelation therefore, necessarily focuses on the restoration of man's relationship with God so that that his fellowship with God can be restored and continued in this life and into eternity.