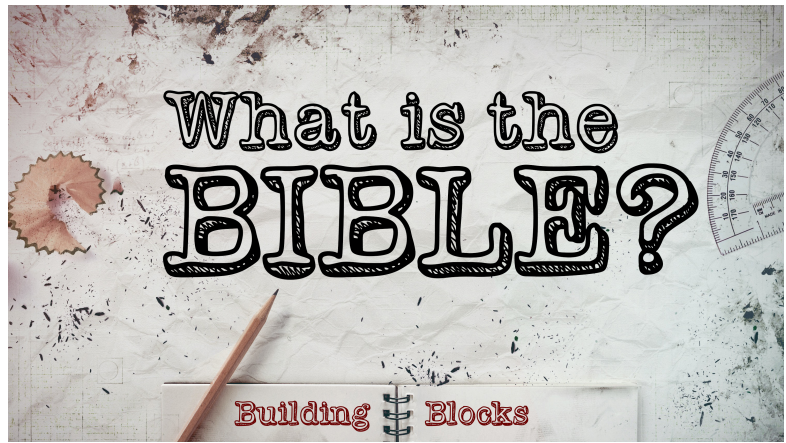


# 1 • How Can I Know What God Wants?

“What is the Bible?” Have you ever thought about that before? Why do we make such a big deal about that book? Why do we treat it as more special than any other book? To begin, we need to take a trip back 2,000 years to the ancient city of Athens.



## The God Who Is Not Far Away

- Athens was a city full of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:16)
- Paul introduces the people to the God who (17:22-31):
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the world and everything in it
  - Is \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven and earth
  - Doesn't live in man-made \_\_\_\_\_
  - Doesn't need \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to all mankind life and breath and everything
  - \_\_\_\_\_ from one man every nation
  - Wants to be found and \_\_\_\_\_ by us
  - Isn't \_\_\_\_\_ from each one of us




For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal \_\_\_\_\_ and divine \_\_\_\_\_, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. (Rom 1:20)

- Isn't an \_\_\_\_\_
- Commands all people everywhere to \_\_\_\_\_ and follow his lead

## How Can I Know What God Wants?

- Nature is amazing! ... but I need more than nature to tell me who God is, what God has done, why I'm here, and what God wants me to do.
- God has given me his word—the Bible—to teach me “the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” (Rom 1:5).
- And where does faith come from? “Faith comes from \_\_\_\_\_, and hearing through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ” (Rom 10:17).

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- What's your favorite part of nature? The ocean? Stars? Mountains? Animals? Why is that your favorite? What does it show you about God?
  
  - Why can't I learn what I need to know about sin from an acorn or Jesus from a waterfall or salvation from a sunset?
  
  - We heard a lot about idols in **Acts 17**. In your own words, what's an idol?
  
  - Do people still struggle with idolatry today? Let's turn our Bibles back to **1 John 5:20-21** and read it together. What sort of idols do we need to be on guard against?
  
  - Let's take a look back at the major points in Paul's sermon in **Acts 17:22-31**. He introduced people to the God who...
    - Made the world and everything in it
    - Is Lord of heaven and earth
    - Doesn't live in man-made temples
    - Doesn't need anything
    - Gives to all mankind life and breath and everything
    - Made from one man every nation
    - Wants to be found and known by us
    - Isn't far from each one of us
- 

Do we need to believe these things?

If so, why?

And how can we come to believe these things?
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- Let's think about that phrase we heard in **Romans 1:5**—“the obedience of faith.” What is that?
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- If “faith comes from hearing” (**Rom 10:17**), what does that tell us about the Bible?