Scripture: Psalm 9 Belgic Confession of Faith art 1 (2)

Singing: 15:1-3 – 117:1-4 – 30:1-3 – 397:2, 3, 4

A. Why study God and His glorious Being?

1. Ps. 9:9-10, 18; Is. 26:3-4

- B. The only way to grow in faith, commitment, devotion, and joy: Ps. 80:1
 - 1. The study of God is the proper study of each of God's elect: Job 22:21
 - 2. The study of God is only way to know yourself rightly: Ps. 36:9
 - 3. The study of God is the only way to be delivered from misery: John 17:3

Our faith in our God means we trust ...

I. That our God exist (His existence)

II. That our God is One, simple and spiritual Being (His Nature)

III. That our God is the sum of all perfections (His glory)

IV. That our God not simply good but an overflowing fountain of all good

I. Our Faith in our God means we trust that our God exists

- A. God's existence does not need *proof:* it is revealed in and outside of us!
 - 1. Every person knows Bible is right in its claim in Roman 1:19-20
- 2. A true Christian doesn't need proof for they know He is real by the Holy Spirit shed abroad and living within: Rom. 5:5 and 1 Cor. 2:11-16
 - 3. Many don't deny God's existence yet don't worship Him: 2 Cor. 4:4
 - 4. If you doubt God's existence intellectually, consider the logical argument

II. That our God is one, simple, and spiritual Being:

- A. One: there are no competitors gods: Deut. 4:39; 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:5-6
 - 1. Mankind has fabricated many idol gods: Is. 44:9-16
 - 2. The LORD our God the ONLY One Alone One: Deut. 32:39; Is. 44:6-8;
 - a. do you live in the faith/confession of Ps. 73:25-26?

B. Simple:

- 1. It doesn't mean what it (today) sounds like: easy to understand not wise
 - a. you will never know God fully
 - Ps. 145:3; Ps. 147:5; Ps. 139:6, 17; Rom. 11:33
 - b. you can never fully understand any attribute of God
 - Is. 55:9; Job 26:14; 11:7 (NO!!)
 - c. yet this truth is delightful
- 2. His 'simplicity' is His 'unity'
 - a. God is not divided into or made up of parts
 - Westminster Conf: God is without body, parts or passions
 - b. Scripture reveals our God one 'united Being' in which all His attributes are Him (John 4:24; 1 John 1:5; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 4:8)
 - He is not a 'collection of attributes'
 - No attribute is more or more important than the others
 - Some actions clearly display some attributes

- 3. Why is this important for us to know that God's nature is a United Being a. so we don't *over-rate* one attribute above others
 - b. so that we don't justify our actions by appealing to 'one attribute' while ignoring the others

C. Spiritual (and invisible)

Reflection: Jesus' secret for an utterly satisfying life: John 17:3

Questions to discuss with your family (adapted from Wayne Grudem):

- 1. Isaiah saw the seraphim around God's throne who sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Host: *the whole earth is full of His glory*." (Is. 6:3) Do you think they are seeing the earth from a distinct perspective than us? How would it be good if we began to see the world more from their perspective today?
- 2. What will you do when you feel doubts about God like Ps. 42:3?
- 3. A good conversation starter with other people is the question, "Do you think God exist?" And if they answer 'Yes' be prepared to ask the next one, "What does it mean to you that He exist?" And if they answer 'No' be prepared to share why you do believe He exist.
- 4. Why did God reveal Himself in His attributes to us? How are we to use this?