

## Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet – January 3, 2021

**Theme:** The Attributes of God      **Topic:** The Attributes of God: Self-existent

**Main Text:** Acts 17:16-31; Colossians 1:9-23

**Key verse:** Colossians 1:17 *“And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”* (NKJV)

**INTRODUCTION:** Daniel 11:32b says “... *the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.*” The challenge however is that our God is infinite and so incomprehensible. Thankfully, it is possible to know God because He has chosen to reveal Himself to us to the extent we see in the Scriptures, in a language we can understand. These we refer to as attributes of God - characteristics or qualities which uniquely define God and enable us to know Him. The first of these attributes we shall be considering is God’s self-existence. Merriam Webster Dictionary defines **self-existent** as: “*existing of or by oneself or itself independently of any other being or cause: not caused to exist by someone or something else...*” So, when Moses needed some way of introducing God to the captive Israelites, “*God said to Moses, “I am who I am...”* (Exodus 3:14). God simply said, ‘I exist!’

1. (a) How does John 1:4 and John 5:26 help you understand this self-existent attribute of God? (b) From what you know, which one of the gods of other religions has this attribute of ‘self-existence’ been credited? (c) Does the fact that our God is uniquely self-existent encourage or challenge your faith in Him? See Isaiah 44:6

This self-existent attribute is one which sets God apart from all others. He does not share it nor can it be assigned to any other. Therefore, unlike all other things that exist, God does not owe His being to any other thing. Rather as Apostle Paul made the point, our earth, along with the entire universe (known and unknown) owes its existence to God. (Acts 17:24). All events have causes. All creatures have been created. Except for God. God is the uncaused cause and the uncreated creator. (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-2) God did not depend upon anything outside Himself for His existence, nor will He ever depend upon anyone for it. “*God, who made the world and everything in it, ... does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*” (Acts 17:24-25 NKJV) And this has implication for man!

2. (a) What possible implication(s) do you see in the statement in Acts 17:24-25? (b) How do passages like Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:35 help us appreciate the implications of God’s self-existent attribute? (c) According to Apostle Paul, what is the expected response from man to the Self-Existent God? See Acts 17:26-28?

The idea of a self-existent being is beyond us. Apostle Paul’s audience in Athens must have been stumped when Paul told them about the God who is self-existent and does not need anything from humans, not even human worship, or veneration to be God. (Acts 17:25). The same way the Pharisees and Scribes were when Jesus introduced Himself with the same words God did to Moses, “I AM...” (John 8:58). Apostle Paul further added that this self-existent God, “*is before all things, and in him all things hold together,*” and more than that, came in bodily form in the person of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15, 17, 19 NIV).

3. (a) How should ‘... in Him all things consist,’ affect the way we interpret world history and events? (b) Read Colossians 1:15-19. What should be our attitude to the God who needs nothing from me, yet came in human form to save me? What does His coming to earth teach us about Him?

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**Prayer:** Thank You Father that though You are Self-existent, completely independent, You stooped down to relate with us. Amen.