

SECOND ANNUAL  
"LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD"  
LECTURESHIP, 1994

# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

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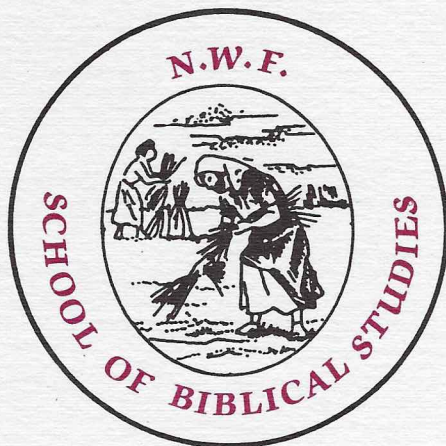
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## THE HARVEST

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

(Luke 10:2)



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SECOND ANNUAL  
"LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD"  
LECTURESHIP

**September 18-22, 1994**

THEME:  
**ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

Editor:  
Kenneth Burleson

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By the Ensley Church of Christ

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**ENSLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*Home of Northwest Florida School Of Biblical Studies*  
57 E. Hannah Circle  
Pensacola, FL 32534  
**904-479-4405**  
**904-476-1417**

## FORWARD

This book contains the lesson outlines of the Second Annual "Labourers Together With God" Lectureship which was held at the Ensley Church of Christ, home of Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies. A book was not printed for the first Lectureship, however, plans are that an outline book will be provided for each future "Labourers Together With God" Lectureship.

The theme for this year, "Attributes of God", was selected because there is a tremendous need for people to have a better understanding of God.

The lack of reverence for God has diminished over the past several years. The attitudes toward God and even the way that so many approach Him in prayer is heart-breaking.

Our prayer is that these lessons will benefit all that will read them. You may purchase Audio and/or Video tapes.

Kenneth Burleson  
1994

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# Longsuffering Of God

*Jeff Bates*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. There is no lesson needed more today than those dealing with the attributes of God.
  - a. Instead of accepting the God of heaven as He really is, many people view God as they want Him to be, changing the attributes of God in their minds to soothe their consciences.
  - b. Learning and accepting the true attributes of God will motivate us to trust and obey Him.
2. The longsuffering of God is an attribute for which we should be truly grateful.
  - a. (Ex. 34:5-7; Psa. 86:15; II Pet. 3:9)
  - b. Had God not been longsuffering, man would have been completely destroyed many years ago.
  - c. Apart from the longsuffering of God, we would have no hope of eternal life.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. WHAT IS THE "LONGSUFFERING OF GOD"?

- A. "Longsuffering" means "long and patient endurance of offense." (Webster's 9th Collegiate)
- B. The word "longsuffering" is from a Greek word which means "long-temper." (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
  1. It is also rendered "forbearance and patience". (Vine's)
  2. "Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy,..." (Vine's)
- C. All men need the longsuffering of God.
  1. All who have reached accountability are guilty of sin. (Rom. 3:23; I Jn. 1:8-10)
  2. Sin results in spiritual death, thus separation from God. (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 59:1,2)
  3. The longsuffering of God is that which gives us the opportunity to repent that we may be reconciled to God and avoid eternal destruction.
- D. Let us notice some Biblical examples of God's longsuffering.
  1. God was longsuffering in the days of Noah. (I Pet. 3:20)
  2. God was longsuffering toward the Israelites who had been

freed from Egyptian bondage. (Num. 14:1-38)

3. God was longsuffering toward Saul. (I Tim. 1:12-17)

## II. LONGSUFFERING MUST BE A CHARACTERISTIC OF ONE WHO WOULD BE A CHRISTIAN.

- A. Some of the attributes of God make Him superior to man, for example His omnipotence, His omniscience, and His Omnipresence. (Psa. 139:6)
- B. There are other attributes of God which we must strive to imitate - God's longsuffering is one of these.
- C. It is among the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and therefore must be added to the life of one who becomes a Christian. (Col. 3:12,13)
- D. We must teach the gospel to others with longsuffering. (II Tim. 4:2)
- E. We cannot be worthy of the blessings of God without longsuffering. (Eph. 4:1,2; Col. 1:10,11)

## III. THE LONGSUFFERING OF GOD DOES NOT RELIEVE US OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REPENT OF SIN.

- A. God's longsuffering does not clear those who are guilty of sin without their repentance.
  1. (Ex. 34:6,7)
  2. God gives the sinner plenty of opportunities to repent, but one who rejects those opportunities will be eternally punished.
- B. Neither does the longsuffering of God force Him to wait forever to bring judgement upon man.
  1. (II Pet. 3:3-15) "...the day of the Lord will come..."
  2. God is also just and will therefore bring the judgement in His appointed time that the saints will enjoy heaven and the sinners will suffer in hell.
- C. Many despise the riches of the longsuffering of God by their disobedience.
  1. (Rom. 2:4)
  2. The alien sinner who knows what to do to become a Christian and thus to please God, but does not take the opportunity to do so, shows despite toward the longsuffering of God.
  3. The child of God who sins and does not repent, but continues in the sin, shows despite toward the longsuffering of God.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The longsuffering of God is a wonderful attribute for which we should be thankful.
  2. No matter what length of time God delays the judgement, multitudes of people will be unprepared. Will you be among the unprepared?
  3. Are you one who despises the longsuffering of God?
  4. Please take the opportunity to repent and get your heart right with God!!
- 

**The Grace Of God****Titus 2:11-12**

*Guy F. Hester*

**I. INTRODUCTION****A. Salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

1. There is a great deal being said about the grace of God that shows a woeful lack of understanding by a lot of religious people, even by many members of the Lord's church, as to what the grace of God is and the part that it plays in the salvation of man's soul and eternal salvation in heaven.
2. Therefore I believe a study of this subject is merited and should be of particular interest to each of us.

**II. WHAT IS GRACE!****A. The literal meaning of the word grace is "unmerited or unearned favor."**

1. As we make the application to the grace of God we might add that is also "undeserved favor".

**B. Grace involves three things: (1) a giver, (2) a gift, (3) and a receiver.**

1. We might illustrate it like this: A father left money for the college education of his two sons. When the time came for them to go to college, the first son accepted the offer and went to college. The second son, however, did not want to go to college and rejected the offer. He did not receive the money.
  - a. The grace of his father had made it available to him, but he rejected his father's grace.

**C. Now if salvation is by grace alone then all men will be saved.**

1. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared

- to all men" (Titus 2:11).
2. 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
- D. Jesus tasted death "for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).
1. In view of all this, why then will all men not be saved?
- E. God gave the plan of salvation and man is a free moral agent to accept it and be saved or reject it and be lost as he may choose.
1. The masses of people today are traveling the broad way to eternal ruin and destruction in spite of the glorious offering of salvation by God.
- F. "But salvation is not free if man does anything in order to be saved."
1. Sunshine is free but you have to get out of the house and make contact with it.
  2. Air is free but you have to breathe, you cannot shut it out and benefit from it at the same time.
  3. God gives us food, "our daily bread", but we must work for it.
  4. God gave Joshua the city of Jericho, but still he commanded him to march around the wall of the city for seven days (Joshua 6:2).
  5. Salvation is the free gift of God, but man must still accept it on the conditions that are laid down in the word of God. Many will not accept it and thus be lost eternally.

### III. HOW IS MAN SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE?

- A. This is an important question and must be answered from the word of God.
1. The apostle Paul said in Romans 5:21 "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."
- B. How does grace reign through righteousness.
1. The Psalmist said, "All thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172).
    - a. Therefore man is saved by grace by doing the commands of God.

#### IV. WHAT ARE THE COMMANDS OF GOD TO THE ALIEN SINNER?

- A. Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
- B. Luke 13:3 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
- C. Matthew 10:32-33 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."
- D. Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

#### V. CONCLUSION

- A. As we close, let us notice a few examples of "grace through faith".
  - 1. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Hebrews 11:4).
  - 2. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." (Hebrews 11:8).
  - 3. By faith Naaman dipped seven times (2 Kings 5).
  - 4. By faith Joshua marched (Joshua 6).
  - 5. By faith the Israelites looked (Numbers 21).
  - 6. By faith the blind man washed (John 9). By faith the sinner repents and is baptized. (Acts 2:38).
- B. "Grace is God's hand reaching down and faith is man's hand reaching up."
  - 1. By God's grace Naaman was cleansed of his leprosy when his faith led him to wash seven times in the waters of the Jordan.
  - 2. By God's grace we are cleansed of our sins when our faith leads us to be baptized.
- C. Even though there is an abundance of grace to cover all our sins and his grace is always greater than our sin; yet this is not a license for the Christian to sin.
  - 1. The apostle Paul asked in Romans 6:1 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"



- a. Now notice the answer to his question in Romans 6:2-5 "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."
  - D. If you are not a Christian, God will save you by his marvelous grace if only you will in faith repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ to be the Son of God and be baptized for the remission of sins.
    1. If you are unfaithful as a child of God, he will, by his grace, restore you to faithfulness, if you will repent of your sins and confess the same and let the brethren pray for you.
- 

## **God Is Impartial**

*Jessie Powell*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Webster defines "impartial" as: "not partial or biased: treating or affecting all equally."
2. God, in His dealings with mankind, is completely fair and impartial.
  - a. He is not one to show partiality.
  - b. His decision in any matter is solely on the basis of what is right, regardless of nationality, sex, color, or station in life (I Sam. 16:7; Acts 10:34,35).
    - 1) All are His creatures (Acts 17:24-29).
    - 2) All are equally related to Him (Heb. 12:9).
  - c. In this lesson let us observe how the Bible clearly reveals the impartiality of God.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- I. **GOD IS IMPARTIAL IN THAT HE REVEALS THE SINS OF THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM AS WELL AS THOSE WHO REBELLED AGAINST HIM.**
  - A. Some of the most faithful characters of the Bible times have sins recorded.

1. Noah (Gen. 9:20,21).
  2. Abraham (Gen. 12:11-13; 20:2,3-18).
  3. Moses/Aaron (Num. 20:7-12).
  4. David (2 Sam. 11:2-4ff).
- B. God revealed both the good and the bad for a purpose (I Cor. 10).

## II. GOD IS IMPARTIAL IN THAT HE LOVES THE SINNER AS WELL AS THE SAINT.

- A. John 3:16.
- B. God does not want anyone to be lost (2 Pet. 3:9).
1. He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:32).
  2. He rejoices when one sinner repents (Lk. 15:7,10).

## III. GOD IS IMPARTIAL IN THAT HE HAS PROVIDED ONE PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL.

- A. There is not a plan for the Jews and another plan for the Gentiles.
1. God has ONE plan of salvation both for the Jew and Gentile, for the rich and poor (Mark 16:15,16).
  2. Peter had to have a miracle to convince him of this fact (Acts 10:9-48).
  3. Peter had to later teach his Jewish brethren that the Jews and the Gentiles are to be saved by grace "in like manner" (A.S.V. Acts 15:11).
  4. Paul taught this truth to unbelieving Jews (Rom. 1:16,17; 11:26).
- B. On the day of Pentecost Peter offered salvation to believing Jews on the condition they would repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
- C. The Gentiles are saved in like manner by complying with the same conditions.
1. We learn from reading Peter's work at the house of Cornelius.
    - a. The Gentiles Believed (Acts 15:7).
    - b. They repented (Acts 11:18).
    - c. And they were baptized in the name of Christ (Acts 10:48).
  2. God shows no partiality because Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, black or white, male or female.
  3. ALL are to obey the same plan of salvation (The Gospel),

without modification (Gal. 1:8,9).

4. ALL who refuse to obey the gospel plan of salvation, God will take vengeance on them (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

#### **IV. GOD IS IMPARTIAL IN THAT HE HAS PROVIDED ONE CHURCH FOR ALL.**

- A. Jesus is the Builder (Matt. 16:18).
- B. Jesus is the purchaser (Acts 20:28).
- C. There is but one church (body) over which Jesus is the head (Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4; Col. 1:18; I Cor. 12:12,13,27).
- D. God will not save those who have not been added to the one church Jesus built even if they are our relatives or friends.

#### **V. GOD IS IMPARTIAL IN JUDGEMENT.**

- A. Every accountable person will be there from the least to the greatest (Rev. 20:12).
- B. All will be judged by our deeds (2 Cor. 5:10; Ecc. 12:14; Rom. 2:11,16).
- C. All will be judged by the same standard (John 12:48).

#### **VI. GOD IS IMPARTIAL IN THAT HE OFFERS THE SAME INVITATION TO ALL.**

- A. "Come unto me ALL ye" (Matt. 11:28-30).
- B. All who fail to respond in obedience will be rejected (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8,9).

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God is (impartial) no respecter of person.
  2. He offers salvation fully and freely to ALL, but each person must accept it for himself.
  3. We can rest assured that "the judge of all the earth" will do right (Gen. 18:25).
- 

## **God Is Faithful** **I Corinthians 1:9**

*Guy F. Hester*

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Everything depends upon the faithfulness of God.
2. "The foundation of God standeth sure" (2 Tim. 2:19).

3. If God is not faithful then the Bible cannot be trusted.
4. Let any man disprove God's faithfulness.
5. With God there "is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN NATURE.**

- A. Psa. 19:1-3, 6.
  1. Since nature was created by God, the faithfulness of nature is but the faithfulness of God (Gen. 1:1; 2:1).
  2. Law of gravity.
    - a. What goes up must come down.
    - b. Child "playing ball with God - I throw it up and He throws it back."
- B. If it were not faithfulness in nature, nothing could be depended on.
  1. Farmer would not know whether or not to plant.

### **II. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS PROMISE.**

- A. "For he is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23).
  1. Paul - "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me" (Acts 27:25).
  2. Faithful in His word to Sarah (Heb. 11:11).
  3. Faithful in His word to Abraham (Rom. 4:20-21).
- B. Where has God ever failed to be faithful in His promises?

### **III. SOME EXAMPLES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.**

- A. He was faithful in His promise to Noah that he would send the flood to destroy the earth (Gen. 6 & 7).
  1. God promised Noah that he would never again destroy all flesh with a flood (Gen. 9:11).
    - a. As a token of His covenant He placed a rainbow in the cloud (Gen. 9:13,16).
    - b. Will God remain faithful in His promise? I believe He will.
- B. God promised Abraham that he would make of his seed a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3; Gen. 22:18).
  1. Thousands of years later we see the faithfulness of God in keeping that promise.
    - a. That seed was Christ (Gal. 3:16-17; 4:4).
    - b. God faithfully kept His promise.

- C. God promised Israel the land of Canaan.
- a. The promise was first made to Abraham (Gen. 13:14-17).
  - b. The promise was repeated several times.
  - c. The Jews had great hope in that promise.
  - d. At times it looked like it might not be fulfilled.
  - e. Ten of the twelve spies thought that it was impossible to take (Num. 13:31-33).
  - f. Joshua and Caleb had faith in the faithfulness of God (Num. 14:8-9).
2. God did not go back on His promise.
- a. "Not one thing failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake" (Josh. 23:14).
  - b. God was faithful.
- D. God promised to give a sign - virgin would conceive and bear a son (Isa. 7:14).
1. This was fulfilled (Matt. 1:22-23).
    - a. God was faithful.
- E. Inspired prophets to prophesy concerning the Messiah.
1. He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13).
    - a. It happened just that way (Matt. 26:14-15).
  2. He would be born in Bethlehem of Judeah (Micah 5:2).
    - a. That too came to pass (Matt. 2:1-6).
    - b. God was faithful.

#### **IV. WILL GOD BE FAITHFUL IN HIS THREATS?**

- A. The judgement of God is according to truth.
1. If we trust His promises we must also trust His threats.
    - a. God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18).
    - b. The judgement of God is according to truth (Rom. 2:2).
    - c. God is faithful.
- B. The judgement of God is according to righteousness (Rom. 2:5; 9:14).
1. Judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31).
  2. Judgements are true and righteous (Psa. 19:9).
  3. God will not pervert judgement and justice (Job 8:3).
    - a. Every transgression will receive just recompence of reward (Heb. 2:2).
    - b. God is faithful.
- C. God gave Christ authority to execute judgement (John 5:27).

1. He will judge according to His authority (John 5:30).
  - a. God is faithful.
- D. What does all this mean to us?
  1. That which is faithful can be depended on.
  2. That which is faithful is not subject to change.
    - a. It will do to live by and die by.
    - b. God is faithful.

## V. WHAT THIS MEANS TO US.

- A. God has promised.
  1. All material needs will be supplied.
    - a. Seek first kingdom and righteousness (Matt. 6:33).
    - b. God is faithful.
  2. He will hear and answer our prayers.
    - a. Must pray according to his will (I John 5:14-15).
    - b. God is faithful.
  3. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled.
    - a. The Lord promised it (Matt. 5:6).
    - b. He is faithful (Psalms 84:11).
  4. "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psa. 84:11).
    - a. The Lord promised. He is faithful.
  5. Never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).
    - a. He has promised and He is faithful.
  6. Where two or three are gathered in His name He will be with them (Matt. 18:20).
  7. A mansion in heaven for the faithful (John 14:2-3).
  8. Those who keep His word will not see death (John 8:51).
  9. Those who die in the Lord will rest from their labors (Rev. 14:13).
  10. He will save the obedient (Heb. 5:8-9).
  11. He will punish the disobedient with everlasting fire (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

## IV. CONCLUSION:

- A. God's promises are many.
  1. All are "exceeding great and precious" (2 Peter 1:4).
  2. You can stake your life upon the fact that God is faithful to keep His promise.
  3. Since God is faithful one must obey Him to obtain eternal

life.

- a. He has promised to save those who do obey Him and condemn those who do not.
- 

## **The Severity Of God**

### **Nahum 1:1-7**

*Paul Powers*

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God..." Rom. 11:22.
  - A. Misconceptions concerning the nature of God's character:
    1. God's nature is exclusively love, tender mercies, loving-kindness and benevolence, therefore it is not in His nature to execute wrath. (Heb. 10:31)
    2. God's nature is exclusively truth, righteousness and purity, therefore He has little patience and mercy with wickedness.
      - a. Ps. 78:38
      - b. Neh. 9:30-32
    3. The God of the New Testament is not the same God of the Old Testament.
      - a. Yet God's wrath is clearly demonstrated in the N.T. to show the seriousness of sinfulness.
      - b. God is not subject to change. (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8)
      - c. God's wrath is reserved. The wicked "treasure-up" the wrath of God. (Rom. 2:4,5)
  - B. The scriptural descriptions of God's character:
    1. The Lamb and the Lion (Rev. 5:5,6)
    2. The Goodness and Severity of God (Rom. 11:22)
    3. The God who is both Great and Terrible (Neh. 1:5; 4:14)
2. "At his wrath the earth shall tremble..." Jer. 10:10
  - A. God's severity defined:
    1. Hebrew - HARAN; HARON; HEMAH Greek - Orge; Thumos; Aganaktesis; Ekdikesis
    2. Translated - Anger; Wrath, Indignation; Vengeance.
    3. Rage; Heat; To be fiery hot; Burning to become heated; Strong vengeful anger; Fierceness; Fury; Jealousy; Anger aroused by something unjust or unworthy; Punishment; Retribution; Vindication; Revenge.
  - B. God's severity illustrated by:
    1. Drinking of His cup of wrath. (Ps. 75:8; Jer. 25:15; Is.



51:17; Rev. 14:9-11)

2. Wrath poured out (Is. 42:25)
  3. Fire (2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 21:9; Ps. 74:1; Ps. 79:5; Lam. 2:4; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Heb. 10: 26,27)
- C. God's severity provoked by:
1. Breaking the covenant with God (Ezra 9:14; Deut. 29:24-28; Is. 5:24,25)
  2. Attitudes (Ex. 4:14; Num. 11:1)
  3. Vanities (Deut. 32:21; I Kgs. 16:13,26) (see I Sam. 12:21)
  4. Turning trust away from God (2 Kgs. 17:17; 21:6; 2 Chron. 33:6)
  5. Willful sins (Micah 5:15; Rom. 2:8-11; Col. 3:5,6)
  6. Hindering the truth (Rom. 1:18) (see Num. 32:6-10)
  7. Backsliding (Is. 1:4)
  8. Rebellion (Deut. 9:7)
  9. Inventions (Ps. 99:8)
- D. A Warning: Matthew 10:28 Acts 13:41
1. Fear God
  2. Beware of rejecting truth
3. "...in thine anger cast down the peoples, O God." Ps. 56:7
- A. God's severity demonstrated in the Old Testament:
1. Gen. 6:6-7 God grieved and repented that He had made man.
  2. Gen. 18:30,32 Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24)
  3. Lev. 10:1 Nadab and Abihu - Going against authority
  4. 2 Sam. 6:7; I Chron. 13:10 - Uzzah and his error
  5. Num. 16:31-35 Korah and Dathan
- B. God's severity demonstrated in the New Testament:
1. Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira - Conspiracy and Lies
  2. Acts 12:23 Herod - Pride and glory
  3. Acts 13:11 Elymas (Bar-Jesus) Hindering the truth

## DISCUSSION:

### I. VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD. (NAHUM 1:2)

- A. Creation and its arrangement belongs to God.
1. All things made for God (Pro. 16:4; Is. 43:7)
  2. All things are God's possession (Ps. 24:1; Hag. 2:8; Ps. 50:10)
  3. God orders all things (Is. 14:24-27; Ps. 37:23-24)
- B. We are commanded to return good for evil. (Rom. 12:17-21)
1. The teachings of Christ (Matt. 5:38-42)

2. The example of Christ. (1 Pet. 2:21-25)
- C. A few of our limited actions authorized by God.
  1. Mark and avoid. (Rom. 16:17-18)
  2. Be separate from evil. (2 Cor. 6:14-18)
  3. Withdraw fellowship. (1 Cor. 5:5,7)
  4. Forbidden to extend blessing. (2 Jn. 9-11)
- D. Retribution belongs to God. (Deut. 32:35; 2 Sam. 22:48; Ps. 94:1; Is. 34:8; Is. 47:3; Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30)

## II. GOD IS LONGSUFFERING AND JUST. (NAHUM 1:3)

- A. God is slow to anger.
  1. His fire must be kindled. (Neh. 9:17; 32-33)
    - a. Ps. 103:8; 145:8; Deut. 32:16-22.
    - b. 1 Kgs. 16:33 - Ahab did more to provoke than any other king.
  2. God does not desire that any perish. (Ezek. 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- B. God is just. (2 Sam. 22:26-28)
  1. God will not be angry without a cause. (Compare Jn. 15:25)
  2. God will not spare the unjust but will require payment. (Lk. 12:20,48)
- C. We can know justice. (Jn. 12:48; Jn. 17:17)

## III. WHO CAN ABIDE / ESCAPE HIS FURY? (NAHUM 1:6)

- A. No man shall spare another.
  1. Is. 9:19 - A brother will not be able to help.
  2. Pro. 11:4 - Riches will not help.
  3. Num. 16:35 - Popularity will not help.
- B. Turning God from His fierceness and fury. (Jonah 3:9,10)
  1. Purify hearts. (Jer. 4:4)
  2. Hear Him speak (Ps. 85)

## IV. A STRONG HOLD TO THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM. (NAHUM 1:7)

- A. God's love and concern (Zeph. 2:3)
  1. Cannot be separated from His love. (Rom. 8:35-39)
  2. Hairs of our head are numbered. (Matt. 10:29,30)
  3. He knows our afflictions and needs (Ex. 3:7; Matt. 6:8)
- B. God's provision (Eph. 3:20; Ezra 8:22; Rom. 8:31; Pro. 3:5,6)
- C. God's reward (2 Pet. 2:9)

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Ps. 90:11 - Who knows the limits of God's severity. (Teach us to number our days)
  2. Joel 2:13-14 - Rend your hearts not your garments.
- 

**God Is Truthful***Windell Fikes***INTRODUCTION:**

1. God is the creator of all things (Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1-5).
2. The truthfulness of the fact that God did create all things is verifiable and "clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse" (Romans 1:20).
3. The Psalmist affirms that God is
  - a. Omniscient - Knowing all (Psalm 139:1-6)
  - b. Omnipresent - Existing everywhere at all times (Psalm 139:7-10)
  - c. Omnific - Creating all things (Psalm 139:13,14)
  - d. Omnipotent - All powerful (Hebrews 1:2,3)
  - e. God sees everything everywhere (Psalm 139:12,16) - "Even the darkness hideth not from thee" (Psalm 139:12).
4. Definition
  - a. God (the Godhead) is divine.
  - b. All three persons in the Godhead, namely the Father, the Son (the Word, Logos), and the Holy Spirit are divine beings, equal in power and not needing to grasp or reach out for the power of the other (Phillipians 2:5-11).
  - c. Truthful
    1. Consistently telling the truth; Honest, corresponding to reality, true (American Heritage Dictionary)
    2. Certainty - True (Young, Edward. Young's Analytical Concordance)

**DISCUSSION:****I. THE GODHEAD IS TRUTHFUL**

- A. "...a God of truth and without iniquite" (Deuteronomy 32:4 KJV); Psalm 31:5
- B. "...I say the truth in Christ, I lie not" (Romans 9:1); "As the truth of Christ is in me,..." (II Corinthians 11:10)
- C. "...the Spirit is the truth..." (I John 5:7)

## II. BIBLICAL STATEMENTS ALWAYS IDENTIFY AND VERIFY A TRUTHFUL GOD

- A. "...a God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he." (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- B. "For the Lord is Good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalm 100:5 KJV)
- C. "Thou hast redeemed me, O Jehovah, thou God of truth..." (Psalm 31:5)
- D. "...so that he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth...and shall swear by the God of truth..." (Isiah 65:16)
- E. "...Elijah now I know that thou art a man of God and that the word of Jehovah in thy mouth is truth." (I Kings 17:24)
- F. Of the Lord - "Full of grace and truth" (John 1:14)
- G. "...God is true" (John 3:33)
- H. "...He that sent me is true" (John 7:28)
- I. "...the only true God" (John 17:3)
- J. "...to serve a living and true God" (I Thessalonians 1:9)

## III. GOD IS TRUTHFUL IN:

- A. His ways (Revelation 15:3)
- B. His judgements - They are according to truth
  1. Jeremiah 10:10
  2. Romans 2:2
  3. Revelation 16:7
  4. Revelation 19:2
- C. His promises (II Corinthians 1:20)
  1. Death
    - a. Hebrews 9:27
    - b. Genesis 3:19
    - c. Ecclesiastes 3:20
    - d. Ecclesiastes 12:7
    - e. Job 34:15
    - f. Isiah 40:6,7
  2. Resurrection
    - a. John 5:28,29
    - b. John 11:24
    - c. Daniel 12:2
    - d. Acts 24:15
    - e. I Corinthians 15:52
  3. End of time

- a. Matthew 24:36-44
- b. II Timothy 1:12,18
- c. II Timothy 4:8 ("that day")
- d. II Peter 3:1-13
- 4. Man's accountability
  - a. John 5:28,29
  - b. II Corinthians 5:10
  - c. Luke 16:19-31
  - d. Matthew 16:27
  - e. Matthew 25:14-30
  - f. Acts 10:42
  - g. Romans 2:16
  - h. Acts 14:10,11
  - i. Acts 17:31

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Truth is a precious thing.
2. God is truthful and cannot lie
3. God's judgements are truthful and man cannot escape them.
4. Let us buy the truth and sell it not (Proverbs 23:23)

All Scripture quotations are taken from the 1901 American Standard Version unless otherwise indicated.

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## **The Pre-eminence Of God**

*Charles Blair*

#### INTRODUCTION:

We are in this series of lessons discussing the attributes of God. In this study we shall consider the "pre-eminence of God". The meaning is the superiority of God to all other things and persons. My intent in this lesson is to bring us to a better understanding of God and what we need to do to serve Him.

#### DISCUSSION:

- I. GOD IS THE POWER WHICH HAS CAUSED ALL THINGS TO COME INTO EXISTENCE
  - A. He is responsible for the physical world and universe.
    1. Genesis 1:1
    2. Colossians 1:16

3. Psalms 19:1
- B. He likewise is responsible for man's existence.
  1. Genesis 1:26
  2. Matthew 19:4
- C. God is the force which sustains all life.
  1. Acts 17:25,28
  2. II Peter 3:5-7

## II. KNOWING THIS, ALL MEN SHOULD STRIVE TO COME TO GOD

- A. Even though the physical world is there some men will reject God.
  1. Psalms 14:1
- B. With all of the evidence there are some who refuse to accept the idea of God.
  1. Romans 1:28
    - a. "...they did not like"
    - b. "...to retain God in their knowledge..."
  2. Romans 1:20
- C. Looking at the evidence we must know there is a Creator.
  1. Hebrews 3:4
- D. Nature by itself cannot tell us "Who" God is but with revelation we can know.
  1. Hebrews 11:1,6
  2. Romans 10:17
  3. Ephesians 3:3-4

## III. ONE REASON JESUS CAME WAS TO SHOW US THE FATHER

- A. Jesus pointed men to the Father.
  1. John 14:7-9
- B. His express purpose was to lead us all to the Father.
  1. John 18:37
  2. John 14:6

## IV. IN SHOWING US THE FATHER, JESUS STRESSED THE PROPER PLACE FOR GOD

- A. Man will gravitate toward that which he loves.
  1. Matthew 6:24
  2. Matthew 6:20-21
- B. The Lord called men to follow Him and "learn" of Him.

1. Matthew 16:24
2. Matthew 11:28-30
- C. Jesus set the example and thereby showed the way for where God should be.
  1. John 4:34
  2. John 17:8
  3. Hebrews 5:8
  4. Luke 22:42

**V. ONE OF THE SADDEST PICTURES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAVING A LOVE AFFAIR WITH IDOLS AND IDOLATRY**

- A. We can learn from what happened to them.
  1. Romans 15:4
  2. I Corinthians 10:5-6; 12
- B. When they forgot God, it cost them.
  1. Isaiah 1:19-20
  2. II Chronicles 15:2
- C. God uses specific terms to show how their departure was viewed by Him.
  1. Exodus 34:15-16
  2. Deuteronomy 31:16
  3. I Chronicles 5:25
  4. Hosea 9:1
- D. Idolatry was failing to love God; it was placing faith in something other than God.

**VI. GOD IS TO BE SUPREME IN OUR LIFE: HE IS TO HAVE THE PRE-EMINENCE; THE LESSONS FROM THE PAST SHOULD SHOW US THE FOLLY OF REJECTING GOD**

- A. Let's take note of how Jesus spoke of our love for God.
  1. Matthew 22:37
  2. I John 5:3
- B. It is a love which transcends all earthly relationships.
  1. Luke 14:26
  2. Luke 14:18-20
- C. It is a love which affects all our relationships in a good way.
  1. I Peter 3:1
  2. Ephesians 5:25
  3. Ephesians 6:1,5



## VII. THE QUESTION FOR US ALL IS, DOES GOD HAVE THE PRE-EMINENCE IN OUR LIFE?

- A. The whole of our life is to be given to God.
    1. Romans 12:1-2
    2. Revelation 11:1
  - B. The purpose of our life is to please Him in all we do.
    1. Romans 8:28
    2. Colossians 1:16 "...and for Him"
    3. I John 3:22
  - C. How do we bring our lives to a point where God has the "pre-eminence"?
    1. I Peter 1:22-23
    2. I Peter 3:15
  - D. The choice is our's, what will we decide, what will we do?
    1. Romans 6:16-18
    2. Joshua 24:15
- 

## THE JEALOUSY OF GOD

*Garland M. Robinson*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. There are many attributes and characteristics of God, all of which are holy, righteous and good.
  - a. This lectureship is examining God's: **longsuffering, grace, impartiality, faithfulness, severity, truthfulness, preeminence, jealousy, compassion, love, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, righteousness, kindness, mercifulness and providence.**
  - b. Other great lessons from God's Word will speak of God's **eternal** nature, the fact that he is the **creator and sustainer**. He is the **saviour** who is **forgiving** and the **judge** of all the earth who is a **giving** God from all his great bounty.
  - c. This lesson will specifically examine the "jealousy of God."
2. **Jealousy** is defined as:
  - a. "Fearful of losing what one has to another, especially someone's love or affection" (American Heritage).
  - b. "Intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness" (Webster).
3. The word jealousy is often associated with a bad connotation.
  - a. It is wrong to be jealous over another's success or advantages.
  - b. It is wrong to be jealous because of envy or bitterness.

4. However, there is also a good sense in which it is used in the Bible.
  - a. There is such a thing as "godly jealousy."
  - b. II Cor. 11:2 "*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*"
  - c. God is spoken of as being a "jealous God."

## DISCUSSION:

### I. JEHOVAH GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD.

#### A. So many scriptures confirm this to be so.

1. Exod. 20:5 "*Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*"
2. Deut. 4:24 "*For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*"
3. Deut. 5:9 "*Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*"
4. Deut. 6:15 "*(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.*"
5. Josh. 24:19 "*And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.*"
6. Nahum 1:2 "*God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.*"
7. Psalm 79:5 "*How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?*"
8. Ezek. 36:5-6; 38:19; Zeph. 1:18; 3:8 speaks of the fire of God's jealousy and fury and the fire of his wrath.

#### B. God has a right to be jealous.

1. He is God! He made us. He sustains us.
2. Psa. 100:3 "*Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*"
3. Acts 17:24 "*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in*

*temples made with hands"*

4. Acts 17:28 *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."*
5. Isa. 43:7 *"...I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."*
6. Isa. 64:8 *"But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."*
7. Jer. 10:10 *"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation."*

## II. GOD'S NAME IS "JEALOUS" AND THEREFORE, HE IS JEALOUS OVER HIS NAME.

- A. Exod. 34:14 *"For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."*
- B. Ezek. 39:25 *"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name."*

## III. GOD IS JEALOUS OVER PURITY AND HOLINESS.

- A. Phinehas killed the Israelite man and the Midianitish woman who committed whoredom before Israel.  
Num. 25:11 *"Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy."*
- B. Deut. 29:18 *"Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood."*
- C. I Kings 14:22-24 *"And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. <sup>23</sup>For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. <sup>24</sup>And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the*

*children of Israel."*

- D. I Tim. 4:12 *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."*

#### IV. GOD IS JEALOUS OVER HIS WORD.

A. His Word will come to pass.

1. Jer. 1:12 *"Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it."*
2. Ezek. 12:25 *"For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD."*
3. Matt. 5:18 *"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."*
4. Matt. 24:35 *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

B. His Word must be respected.

1. Deut. 5:32 *"Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left."*
2. Josh. 23:6 *"Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;"*
3. Psalm 119:6 *"Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments."*
4. Psalm 119:15 *"I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways."*
5. II Peter 2:21 *"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."*

C. His word will judge us.

1. John 12:48 *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."*
2. Rev. 20:12 *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books,*

*according to their works."*

## V. GOD IS JEALOUS OVER HIS KINGDOM, THE CHURCH.

### A. In the Old Testament:

1. Zech. 1:14 *"So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy."*
2. Zech. 8:2 *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury."*

### B. In the New Testament:

1. Matt. 16:18 *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*
2. Acts 2 It was established on Pentecost according to prophesy.
3. Jesus reigns over his kingdom/church as its head (Eph. 1:22-23).
4. Jesus will save his kingdom/church (Eph. 5:23).
5. Men must not forsake the Lord's pattern for his church.
  - a. II Tim. 1:13 *"Hold fast the **form** (pattern) of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."*
  - b. Jude 1:3 *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."*

## VI. GOD IS JEALOUS OVER HIS WORSHIP.

### A. Man must worship no other but Jehovah and Jehovah alone.

1. Deut. 32:16-17 *"They provoked him to jealousy with **strange gods**, with abominations provoked they him to anger. <sup>17</sup>They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not."*
2. Deut. 32:21 *"They have moved me to jealousy with that **which is not God**; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation."*

3. Psa. 78:56-58 *"Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: <sup>57</sup>But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. <sup>58</sup>For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images."*
  4. Ezek. 8:3-5 speaks about an *"image of jealousy which provoketh to jealousy."*
- B. God has always demanded that men worship as he commands.
1. Matt. 4:10 Jesus stated the principle — *"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."*
  2. Cain's worship was not acceptable (Gen. 4:1-8).
    - a. Heb. 11:4 *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."*
    - b. I John 3:12 *"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."*
  3. Nadab and Abihu's worship was not acceptable.
    - a. Lev. 10:1-2 *"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. <sup>2</sup>And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD."*
    - b. They did not worship according to God's instructions. They used "strange fire" — an unauthorized fire.
- C. Worship must be in spirit and in truth.
1. John 4:24 *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*
  2. "In spirit" is worship that comes from the heart — sincere, genuine, proper motive.
  3. "In truth" is worship that is directed according to God's revealed truth — the Bible.
  4. Any worship that is not "in spirit and truth" is not acceptable and therefore is vain worship.  
Matt. 15:9 *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

**CONCLUSION:**

1. God truly is a jealous God.
  2. He has a right to be jealous.
  3. Men everywhere must obey, worship and serve him throughout eternity.
- 

**The Compassionate God***Virgil L. Hale***INTRODUCTION:**

1. "Compassion" - suffering with another; pity or sympathy for another.
2. "God is love" (I Jno. 4:16).
3. If God is not concerned about man - man is without hope.
4. God is holy - man is unholy.
5. God is just. If it were not for His compassion, man could only have fear in his heart.

**I. GOD LOVES THE WORLD (JNO. 3:16)**

- A. God's love for man was:
  1. Not earned
  2. Not deserved
  3. Not because man was so lovable.
- B. The only answer is compassion.
- C. The story of the "good Samaritan" illustrates. (Lk. 10)

**II. LOVE MAKES PROVISION FOR THE WELFARE OF THE OBJECT OF ITS LOVE**

- A. God provided for man's salvation.
  1. Man had sinned - a Saviour promised. (Gen. 3:15) with (Gal. 4:4)
- B. Israel was an example of God's love and provision.
  1. (Psa. 78:36-38; 86:15; 111:4; 145:8)
  2. God was a friend - not an enemy. (Isa. 49:15-16)
- C. God is a merciful God. (Ex. 34:6)
  1. Yet God could show compassion or no compassion. (II Chron. 36:15-17)
- D. Through Christ, God's mercy is extended to all mankind.
  1. (Tit. 2:11-14; 3:3-8; Heb. 2:9; Rom. 3:32)
  2. Mercy is always shown in connection with guilt.
    - a. (Rom. 5:6-8) Note: (Psa. 103:10)



3. God wants all people saved. (II Pet. 3:9; 15) (I Tim. 2:4)
4. Men were racing head long into ruin. (Eph. 2:1-3)
  - a. But, note (verses 4-5)
5. The Gospel was given to save. (Rom. 1:16; Rom. 10:14-17).
- E. God's concern is shown in the lost objects of (Lk. 15)
  1. Lost coin - still had 9
  2. Lost sheep - still had 99
  3. Lost son - still had 1
    - a. Compassion is shown on the prodigal.

### III. GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE ARE CONDITIONAL

- A. Some would have us believe that man is saved unconditionally.
  1. Such is not true now, nor has it ever been.
  2. It has always been God's grace plus man's obedient faith.
- B. Salvation has been offered - made possible by God's goodness.
  1. This is why man's repentance is possible. (Rom. 2:4)
- C. But without obedience to the Gospel, man is lost.
  1. (II Thess. 1:7-9) (Heb. 5:9)
  2. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism are essential.
    - a. The final step (baptism) puts us into Christ, where salvation is found. (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27) with (Eph. 1:3; 7)

### CONCLUSION:

1. Once we become Christians, we must be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10)
    - a. If we are, no one can snatch us away from the Lord (Jno. 10:27-29)
  2. As God has been merciful to us, we must show mercy to others.
    - a. (Matt. 5:7; 25:31-46; Lk. 6:36; Micah 6:8)
- 

## The Giving God

*Clint Harper*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. It would not be possible to actually count all the blessings God gives us.
  - a. There are some we are just now learning of.
    1. Medicines - God gave them but we are just learning of them.
    2. Transportation - It has been less than one hundred years since

the car was invented.

- b. They are just too numerous.
  1. We could count all day.
  2. We could and should fall asleep at night counting our blessings.
2. All good and perfect gifts come from God - James 1:17.
  - a. No one can give gifts like God can.
    1. Idols can't - they are nothing.
    2. The Devil can't - as powerful as he may seem, he cannot give good gifts.
    3. There is no man who can match the gifts of God, though some try.
  - b. Gifts from God come in many ways.
    1. Not miraculously now.
    2. They do come through His providence.
    3. They do come through Brethren.
3. Why does God give gifts?
  - a. Not because we deserve them.
    1. We could never merit salvation or any gift of God.
    2. We are deserving of death for our sins.
  - b. It is because of His Love.
    1. Deuteronomy 7:7-8
    2. John 3:16
  - c. It is because of His mercy.
  - d. It is because of His long-suffering - 2 Pet. 3:15. And on and on we could go.
4. What are some of the gifts God gives?

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. GOD IS THE GIVER OF PHYSICAL BLESSINGS.**

- A. He gave life.
  1. He created man - Gen. 2:7
  2. He knows how we were created - Ps. 103:14
- B. He gives the necessities of life.
  1. Mt. 5:45
    - a. The lesson taught here.
      - 1) We are to love our enemies and bless them.
      - 2) Why? Because God does.
    - b. God gives blessings to all of man kind.
  2. He gives:
    - a. The warmth of the sun.

- b. The blessing of the rains.
- c. He gave us the air.
- d. He gives us food.
- e. He gives us clothing.

## II. GOD IS A GIVER OF BLESSINGS TO THE WORLD.

- A. God gave the world His Son.
  - 1. John 3:16; Lk. 19:10
  - 2. Rom. 5:6-8, Jn. 10:17-18
- B. God gave the world Grace - Titus 2:11-12
  - 1. The grace of God has appeared to all men.
  - 2. It teaches us.
    - a. To deny ungodliness and worldly lust.
    - b. To live soberly, righteously and godly.
    - c. When? - In this present world.

## III. GOD IS A GIVER OF SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

- A. All spiritual blessings are "In Christ" - Eph. 1:3
- B. God blesses all people but He blesses his people in a special way - Gal. 6:10.
- C. Blessings Christians enjoy.
  - 1. We have spiritual life - Eph. 2:5
  - 2. We have hope. Eph. 2:12, Rom. 8:24-25, Jn. 14:2-3, Heb. 6:18-19
  - 3. We have the Gospel.
    - a. The Gospel was given to us.
      - 1) To protect.
      - 2) To take to the world.
        - a) It is our responsibility to take the Gospel - Mk. 16:15-16
        - b) How can people be saved if the Gospel is not taken - Rom. 10:14
    - b. It is the saving power.
  - 4. We have the blessing of prayer.
    - a. Prayer is a blessing.
    - b. Prayer is for the saints.
      - 1) I Pet. 3:18
      - 2) I Jn. 3:22
      - 3) Jn. 9:31
  - 5. We have the blessing of fellowship.
    - a. Ps. 133 describes fellowship.

- b. Fellowship is for the saints - I Jn. 1:7.
  - 1) We have fellowship with one another.
  - 2) We have fellowship with God.
  - 3) It is restricted to saints only.
- c. Fellowship is:
  - 1) Love for one another.
  - 2) Worshipping together.
  - 3) Laboring together - I Cor. 3:9
  - 4) Helping each other - Gal. 6:2

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. We must remember that all blessings come from God.
  - 2. Let us resolve not to take our blessings for granted as so often we do.
  - 3. Let us always give God thanks - Col. 3:17.
- 

## The Love Of God

*Lenard Hogan*

### INTRODUCTION:

- 1. God's written word sets forth his love for mankind.
  - a. I John 4:16 declares that God is love.
  - b. God showed his great love when He sent Christ into the world that we might live. (I John 4:9)

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN IN THE BEGINNING.

- A. In creation.
  - 1. Man was made in God's own image.
  - 2. God did not leave man alone, but made a helpmeet for him.
    - a. He placed them in the garden to dress and keep it.
    - b. They had free run of the garden except that they could not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
    - c. He promised that the Savior would come later. (Genesis 3:15)
- B. God made provisions for man's deliverance when the flood came. (Genesis 6-9)
  - 1. All of the world was wicked.
  - 2. Noah, a man of righteousness, was given instructions on how to save himself from the flood.

- C. God made provisions for the preservation of the Israelite nation.
  - 1. Joseph was sent to Egypt.
  - 2. With Joseph in charge of governmental affairs, provisions were made for Egypt during the famine.
    - a. Not only were the Israelites saved, but also the Egyptians.

## II. GOD CONTINUED TO SHOW HIS LOVE WHEN THE ISRAELITES LEFT EGYPT.

- A. God provided for their safety during the Exodus.
  - 1. He put a cloud between Israel and the Egyptians (Exodus 13:21).
  - 2. He divided the Red Sea so that Israel could escape and then drown the Egyptians when they followed. (Exodus 14:21-25)
- B. God provided for their sustenance on their journey. (Exodus 16:4-13)
  - 1. He fed them with bread (manna) in the morning.
  - 2. He fed them with quail in the evening.

## III. GOD'S LOVE WAS SHOWN DURING THE TIME OF ISRAEL'S KINGS AND AFTER.

- A. God promised to be with Solomon (I Kings 9:4).
  - 1. God's promise was based on Solomon being obedient to His commands.
    - a. Even when Solomon disobeyed, God did not cut off every tribe from his household.
    - b. God remembered David by retaining the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
  - 2. In his disobedience Solomon recognized that obedience is necessary, remembering that the whole duty of man is to keep God's commandments. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- B. God wanted to give King Ahaz a sign of his faithfulness.
  - 1. Ahaz refused to ask for a sign.
  - 2. God gave him a sign anyway.
    - a. A virgin was to bear a son.
    - b. This virgin born son was to be called Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)
    - c. He would be called the mighty God, everlasting Father. (Isaiah 9:6)
- C. God declared his love when He said that man cannot direct his own steps. (Jeremiah 10:23)

- D. God showed His love when he inspired Daniel to tell Nebuchadnezzar that God's kingdom would be established during the fourth great world empire. (Daniel 2:44)

#### IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT SETS FORTH GOD'S GREATEST LOVE FOR MANKIND.

- A. God declared the coming of His son for man's salvation.
1. The angel told Joseph that Mary was with child who would save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)
  2. In the coast of Caesarea Philippi Jesus told His apostles that He would build His church in which people could have salvation. (Matthew 16:18)
  3. On the mount of transfiguration God spoke saying, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him." (Matthew 17:5)
  4. Jesus came to the earth so that it would not be necessary for man to perish. (John 3:16)
- B. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach the apostles.
1. The comforter or Holy Spirit would come in Jesus' name.
  2. The Spirit would guide them into all truth. (John 16:13)
  3. As a result of the Holy Spirit coming to guide the Apostles we have the written word, the Bible to guide us.
  4. On the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and spoke as they were guided by Him.
- C. An insight into God's love is given to us in Ephesians 3:16-19.
1. Granted you according to the riches of his glory.
    - a. It strengthens the inner man.
    - b. It sets forth the greatness of God's love.
  2. It is given so that Christ might dwell in our hearts.
    - a. That we may be grounded in love.
    - b. That we may know the love of God.
- D. Some additional passages revealing God's love.
1. God's love enables us to be delivered from the power of darkness. (Colossians 1:13)
  2. God's love for man makes Him want all to be saved. (I Timothy 2:4)
  3. God's love makes it possible for the blood of Christ to cleanse us. (I John 1:7)
  4. The love of God is that we keep His commandments. (I John 5:3)

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The Scriptures reveal the greatness of God's love.
    - a. God so loves us that He did not withhold his only begotten Son.
    - b. Jesus Christ, the son, came to do His father's will.
    - c. That will was for Him to give Himself on the cross of Calvary to make salvation possible for everyone.
  2. Where would man be without God's love?
    - a. condemned to hell with the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)
    - b. BUT God's love has made it possible for man to be saved eternally.
    - c. Invitation.
- 

**God Is The Judge***Virgil L. Hale***INTRODUCTION:**

1. The judgement is certain.
  - a. Three undeniable points prove this.
    - 1) As certain as death (Heb. 9:27)
    - 2) As certain as Christ's resurrection (Acts 17:31)
    - 3) As certain as the Lord lives (Rom. 14:11)
2. The question for this study is: WHO WILL BE THE JUDGE?

**I. GOD THE FATHER IS SAID TO JUDGE**

- A. Especially is this true in the Old Testament.
  1. (Gen. 1:25) "...the judge of all the earth..."
  2. (Judges 11:27) "...the Lord the Judge be judge this day..."
  3. (Psa. 50:6) "...God is judge himself."
  4. (Psa. 75:7) "But God is the judge..."
  5. (Psa. 94:2) "...thou judge of the earth..."
  6. (Ecc. 12:14) "For God shall bring every work into judgement with every secret thing..."
- B. Also in the New Testament
  1. (Rom. 14:12) "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God."
  2. (Heb. 12:23) "...and to God the Judge of all..."
  3. (Rom. 2:5) "...of the righteous judgement of God."
  4. (Heb. 13:4) "...but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
  5. (Rom. 3:6) "...for then how shall God judge the world?"

## II. THE FATHER AND THE SON ARE CLOSELY UNITED - WORKING IN HARMONY

- A. Note these passages:
1. (Jno. 5:30; 8:15-16; 50)
  2. (Jno. 12:47)
    - a. (Matt. 1:21) (Lk. 19:10)
- B. In some passages, neither one is specified.
1. (Jas. 5:9) "...behold the judge standeth before the door."
  2. (I Pet. 4:5) "...to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

## III. CHRIST WILL ACTUALLY BE THE JUDGE

- A. (Jno. 5:22; 27)
- B. (Acts 10:42; 17:30-31)
- C. (2 Cor. 5:10)
- D. (II Tim. 4:1) (II Tim. 4:8) (Rom. 14:10)

## IV. GOD THE FATHER JUDGES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST - THE SON

- A. (Rom. 2:16) "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men, by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."
- B. Christ is not only the judge - but His word will be the standard used to judge. (Jno. 12:48) (Rom. 2:12)
- C. Note this prophecy concerning Jesus in (Isa. 11:1-5).
  1. His will be "righteous judgement".

## CONCLUSION:

1. We will all be at the judgement. (Rev. 20:12; Matt. 25:31-32; Heb. 9:27)
    - a. We will be judged by our lives, lived here on earth. (Ecc. 12:13-14; II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12)
  2. Let us make the preparation needed, NOW!
- 

# The Omniscient God

*Kenneth Burlison*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The Omniscience of God Defined.
  - a. All knowing
  - b. Having infinite knowledge



- c. Knowing all things
- d. Infinite understanding
2. God's foreknowledge does not take away man's free will.
  - a. Matt. 11:28-30
  - b. Rev. 22:17
  - c. Matt. 26:34
3. Proper distinction must be made between foreknowledge and foreordination.
  - a. The knowing of an action. Foreknowledge
  - b. The planning of it. Foreordination
4. Man has the power to choose right or wrong.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. GOD KNOWS AND SEES ALL THINGS AND HE HAS INFINITE UNDERSTANDING

#### A. God knows all things.

1. Deut. 2:7 "...He knoweth thy walking..."
2. Deut. 31:21 "...I know their imagination..."
3. I Sam. 2:3 "...The Lord is a God of knowledge..."
4. II Sam. 7:20 "...for thou, Lord God, knowest thy servant..."
5. I Kings 8:39 "...whose heart thou knowest..."
6. II Kings 19:27; Isa. 37:28 "...But I know thy abode..."
7. Job 22:12 "...and thou sayest How doth God know...?"
8. Job 34:25 "Therefore he knoweth their works..."
9. Job 37:16 "...Perfect in knowledge?"
10. Job 42:2 "...no thought can be withholden from thee."
11. Psa. 44:21 "...For he knoweth the secrets of the heart."
12. Psa. 139:1 "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me."
13. Psa. 147:4 "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."
14. Isa. 29:15 "...and who knoweth us?"
15. Isa. 42:9 "...before they spring forth I tell you of them."
16. Isa. 46:10, 48:5 "Declaring the end from the beginning..."
17. Eze. 11:5 "...I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them."
18. Dan. 2:22 "...he knoweth what is in the darkness..."
19. Dan. 2:28 "...revealeth secrets..."
20. Lk. 16:15, Acts 15:8 "...God knoweth your hearts..."
21. Rom. 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!..."
22. I Pet. 1:2 "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the

Father... "

23. I Jn. 3:20 "...knoweth all things."

B. God sees all things.

1. Gen. 16:13 "...Thou God seest me..."

2. I Sam. 16:7 "...The Lord seeth not as man seeth..."

3. Job 26:6 "Hell is naked before him and destruction hath no covering."

4. Job 28:10 "...his eye seeth not as man seeth..."

5. Job 28:24 "For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven."

6. Job 31:4 "Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?"

7. Job 34:21,22 "...he seeth all his goings..."

8. Isa. 29:15,16 "...and they say who seeth me..."

9. Matt. 6:4 "...and thy Father which seeth in secret..."

10. Matt. 10:29-30 "...and one of them shall not fall to the ground without thy Father..."

11. Heb. 4:13 "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight..."

C. His infinite understanding.

1. I Chron. 28:9 "...the Lord searcheth all the imaginations of the thoughts..."

2. Isa. 40:28 "...the Lord searcheth all the imaginations of the thoughts..."

3. Dan. 2:20 "...for wisdom and might are his."

4. Psa. 147:5 "...his understanding is infinite." KJV footnote on this passage: "of his understanding there is no number."

## II. CALVINISTS DOCTRINE.

A. They teach that God did of his own will freely and unchangeably ordain 'whatsoever comes to pass (song by Doris Day - "Whatever Will Be Will Be.")

1. This Creed was basically accepted because of an erroneous concept regarding divine foreknowledge.

2. Out of this comes the doctrine that God ordained some to be saved and others to be lost.

B. If this doctrine be true, then it is impossible for human beings to violate God's divine law.

1. If one murders another individual in cold blood, God ordained it.

2. Any thing one may do, good or bad, is really the act of God

since he ordained all things.

3. According to this theory, there is no human responsibility.
  4. To avoid the dilemma of this doctrine they added "God is not the author of sin." But if God ordained everything, he ordained every act of man whether it be good or bad.
- C. This doctrine is the result of the erroneous idea that divine foreknowledge includes foreordination or causation.
1. The argument made is that if God can see the end from the beginning. He must have planned the end from the beginning. This is incorrect.
  2. Since God is eternal and his dwelling place is eternity, time as we know it does not exist with God. Isa. 57:15. Whether past, present or future with us, it is all present with God. We must distinguish between causative knowledge and the awareness which sees but does not cause.

### **III. PASSAGES USED BY SOME TO SHOW THAT GOD DOES NOT KNOW EVERYTHING, BUT RATHER LIMITS HIMSELF.**

#### **A. Gen. 18:21**

1. God limits his knowledge - He knows only what he chooses to know.
2. They say God has all power but does not use it today.
3. "I will know" - Does this imply that God did not know the condition of the cities of the plains before messengers went into the cities? This is accommodative language; this shows that God does not punish without facts. What God knew of those cities would be proven to Abraham and also to us through the Bible, that God was righteous in destroying the cities. It has been affirmed that God knows all that is to be known. It cannot be said of God that He is all wise and that He has all knowledge if He does not know all there is to know.

#### **B. Gen. 22:12 - "Now I know"**

1. The phrases "I will know" and "now I know" cannot be made to say that God did not know. If interpreted so, the plain passages would be made false. "Now I know" - Literally - Have known. It causes others to know.
2. Surely God knew of Abraham's fear. If He did not, then why the promises concerning Isaac? There would be no basis for those promises.

3. The language used is for man's benefit as when the question was asked of Adam "where art thou?" God was not asking for information. It was for Adam's benefit to cause him to admit what had transpired.
- C. Some say forgiving is forgetting Heb. 8:12.
1. True, but must understand the meaning of forgiving. "Remember no more"
  2. It means not hold against. Not that they are wiped out of the mental capacity.
  3. Forgive - to give up all claim to punish or exact penalty for, to correct or remit.

#### IV. THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- A. Acts 2:23
- B. I Pet. 1:20
- C. The foreknowledge of God did not lessen the guilt of those who put Jesus to death.

#### V. CONCLUSION:

- A. God's knowledge is complete.
    1. Psa. 147:5 - The meaning; you do not limit His understanding.
    2. Acts 1:24; II Tim. 2:19; I Jn. 3:20
  - B. God's knowledge does not destroy man's free will.
    1. Did Jesus know that Peter would deny Him? Matt. 26:34. He said He did.
    2. Was Peter merely a victim of circumstance? No! He was not a robot or puppet, Peter was as free as any one else.
  - C. God knows all there is to know.
  - D. One must understand that foreknowledge is not causation.
- 

## God, Is Creator

### I Peter 4:19

*Mike Kiser*

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. A large subject involving hundreds of books and thousands of hours of discussion.
2. Not discussing the existence of God, the power of God, evolution, or the various theories about Genesis 1 & 2.

3. What the Bible says about God, the creator, serves as the very foundation for religion, morality, and all knowledge.
4. The first great truth revealed in the Bible is that GOD IS, and that He is the creator of heaven and earth. Gen. 1:1
  - a. No argument is made for the existence of God.
  - b. Clearly an affirmation that spirit existed BEFORE matter and is responsible for the existence of all matter!
    - 1) Either spirit or matter must be uncreated and eternal. Not matter. Therefore spirit.
    - 2) Matter never exerts any power over mind; mind constantly exerts power over matter.
    - 3) Obviously we could not formulate any theories about matter without mind. Mind a function of spirit.
5. Our theme challenges all the false theories about God and matter; declares the existence and sovereign will of God.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. WHAT HAS GOD CREATED?

- A. The word "create" is used only three times in Gen. 1
  1. The origination of matter. Vs. 1
  2. The origination of life. Vs. 21
  3. The origination of soul. Vs. 27
- B. Paul's summation: Eph. 3:9 "all things."
- C. The failure of modern science is quite evident.
  1. Failed to produce matter, life, or soul!
  2. Science can only work with empirical knowledge, so therefore the study of origins and first causes are outside of its domain.
  3. Life from non-life cannot be proved!
  4. Therefore we must conclude, Nature is not self-existent; God is the first cause. Heb. 3:4

### II. HOW DID GOD CREATE THESE THINGS?

- A. The agents in creation.
  1. His word. Psa. 33:6-9; 148:5
  2. His Son. Jno. 1:3; Col. 1:16
  3. His Spirit. Psa. 104:30
- B. There are two classifications to note:
  1. Immediate: EX-NIHILO (from nothing). Gen. 1:1
    - a. Said of matter, life, and soul!
    - b. The primary meaning of "creation" signifies the bringing

into being something which did not before exist. (Hebrew: BARA - God is always the one who does the creating!)

- c. Additional scriptures on this point.
  - 1) John 1:3 "made", GINOMAI
  - 2) Heb. 11:3, FAITH, is objective, not subjective; not the act of believing, but what we believe; i.e. the content of the gospel.
  - 3) Col. 1:16,17. No room for pre-existing materials.
- 2. Mediate:
  - a. Not origination, but reshaping, adapting, conforming, and transforming existing materials.
  - b. Gen. 2:7,19. "out of the ground"
- C. The work of creation was complete.
  - 1. "It is good".
  - 2. Heb. 4:3, "Finished from the foundation..."

### III. WHEN DID GOD DO THIS WORK OF CREATION?

- A. The only satisfactory answer is "in the beginning".
- B. Different Bibles give different dates!
  - 1. Hebrew - 3944 B.C.
  - 2. Samaritan - 4305 B.C.
  - 3. LXX - 5270 B.C.
  - 4. Usher - 4004 B.C.
  - 5. Josephus - 4648 B.C.
- C. The Bible does not allow for the absurd dates going back hundreds of thousands, or millions of years!!!
  - 1. God created man with the appearance of age.
  - 2. He could do the same with the earth as well!

### IV. WHY DID GOD CREATE THESE THINGS?

- A. The reason for the creation of man.
  - 1. "In our image, after our likeness". Gen. 1:27
    - a. God is spirit - John 4:24
    - b. "Likeness" - not physical for none exist
    - c. Man is a spiritual personality with intellect, memory, reason, self-determining will, conscience, emotions, moral and religious faculties, immortality.
  - 2. The creation of man is grounded in God's nature
    - a. God is love. I Jno. 4:8
    - b. Therefore God created man to have a race of beings to

love, and by whom to be loved.

3. Man was created for the glory and pleasure of God. Isa. 45:1,7,8,12,18; Rev. 4:11
- B. The reason for the creation of everything else.
1. The universe and all that is in it displays the power and glory of God...to man! Psa. 8:1; 19:1
  2. Creation: an inspiration for worship and trust. Ecc. 12:1; I Pet. 4:19
  3. We know that these things exist for man's benefit. Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-29; Rom. 1:18-23
- C. The necessity for another kind of creation. Rom. 1:20
1. The new creation. II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15
  2. The creation of a new heart. Psa. 51:10
  3. The creation of the church. Eph. 2:10; 4:24
  4. The new heaven and earth. Isa. 65:17

### CONCLUSION:

1. This subject does away with the notion that we exist by our own right, and therefore should be free to do as we please.
  2. God is and is all powerful. The same word that created heaven and earth will bring all to an end and judge mankind.
- 

## The Righteousness Of God

*Jimmy W. Bates*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Definition of terms:
  - a. GOD: Deity; The Godhead: God the Father, The Son Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit.
  - b. RIGHTEOUSNESS; RIGHTEOUS; RIGHT; JUST:
    1. Righteousness (Gr. DIKAIOSUNE) - "...is the character or quality of being right or just; it was formerly spelled rightwiseness; which clearly expresses the meaning..." - Vine
    2. Righteous: "acting in a just, upright manner; doing what is right... morally right; fair and just..." - New World Dictionary
    3. Righteous (Gr. DIKAIOS) "...signifies 'just', without prejudice or partiality..." - Vine
    4. Right - opposite of wrong - (Gr. EXOUSIA) "...authority, power...first denotes freedom to act and then authority for

the action. This is first true of God, Acts 1:7. It was exercised by the Son of God, as from, and in conjunction with, the Father. When the Lord was upon earth, in the days of His flesh, Matt. 9:6; John 10:18, as well as in resurrection, Matt. 28:18; John 17:2. All others hold their freedom to act from God..." - Vine

5. **Just:** (Gr. DIKAIOS) same word translated righteous. "...was first used of persons observant of dike, custom, rule, right...was formerly spelt 'rightwise', i.e. (in a ) straight way. In the N.T. it denotes righteous, a state of being right, or right conduct..." - Vine  
 "...right or fair; equitable; impartial; righteous; upright..." - New World Dictionary.

2. Based on these definitions the "Righteousness of God" involves His: actions; character; authority; power; dealings with man: past, present, and future; punishment of sin; judgements; and justification of man.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. THE BIBLE DECLARES GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS:

#### A. Deut. 32:1-4

1. God is declared to be: a. great, b. the Rock, c. perfect in His work, d. a God of truth, e. without iniquity, f. just and right.
2. We must acknowledge the greatness of God and express such in every way we can.
3. Moses sets forth the greatness of God by showing:
  - a. the strength and power of God
  - b. the perfection of His work
  - c. the faithfulness of His Word
  - d. the justness and righteousness of His character

#### B. Other Declarations of God's Righteousness

1. Exod. 9:27 - Pharaoh, "The Lord is righteous."
2. II Chron. 12:6 - Princes of Israel and the King.
3. Ezra 9:15 - "O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous..."
4. Nehemiah 9:8 - "...for thou art righteous"
5. Psalm 5:8 - "Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness..."
6. Psalm 11:7 - "For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright."
7. The Psalms repeatedly declare the righteousness of God: 7:9; 22:31; 31:1; 36:10; 48:10; 50:6; 71:19; 72:2; 96:13; 111:3; 112:3,9; 116:5; 119:40,123,137,142; 129:4; 145:17
8. Jeremiah 12:1 - "Righteous art thou, O Lord..."



9. Lamentations 1:18 - "The Lord is righteous..."
  10. Micah 6:5 - "...that ye may know the righteousness of the Lord."
- C. The Gospel Reveals God's Righteousness.
1. Rom. 1:16,17 - "...therein is the righteousness of God revealed..."
  2. Rom. 10:3 - Some have not "submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."
  3. II Peter 1:1 - "...obtained like precious faith ...through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ."
- D. I Jn. 2:1 - "...Jesus Christ the righteous..."
1. Luke 23:47 - "...Certainly this was a righteous man."
  2. I John 2:29 - "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."

## II. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS IN HIS WORD (HIS LAW).

- A. Deut. 4:1-9
1. Verse 1: Hearken diligently to God's word and the statutes and judgements that were taught them.
  2. Verse 2: Keep it pure, and do not add to it; keep it entire, and do not diminish from it, because it is just and right!
  3. Verses 5-7: The wise individual will keep and obey God's instructions because they are just and right.
  4. Verse 8: All of God's law is righteous!
- B. Nehemiah 9:13 - "Thou comest down also upon Mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgements, and true laws, good statutes and commandments.
1. Every commandment God has ever given to man was for man's own good.
  2. His instructions are right, true and good.
- C. Psalm 19:7,8 - perfect, sure, right, pure.
- D. Psalm 33:4 - "For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth."
- E. Psalm 119:6,7,106,128,138,160,164.
- F. Romans 1:16,17
1. The Gospel is God's righteous law.
  2. James 1:25 - "perfect" law.
  3. Every command of the Gospel is fair, just, right, impartial, good, and based upon the authority of God!

### III. ALL OF GOD'S ACTIONS TOWARD MAN HAVE BEEN / ARE / WILL BE RIGHTEOUS.

- A. He is a "Just" God: Neh. 9:33; Isa. 45:21; Zeph. 3:5; Matt. 27:19,24; John 5:30.
- B. He executes judgement and "justice" in the earth. Jeremiah 23:5.
- C. His "acts" are righteous: Judges 5:11; I Samuel 12:7.
- D. His "ways" are righteous: Hosea 14:9; Acts 13:10.
- E. God is just in punishing sinful man: II Thess. 1:6-9.
  - 1. Adam and Eve - Gen. 3
  - 2. Cain - Gen. 4
  - 3. The Flood - Gen. 6-8
  - 4. Sodom and Gomorrah - Gen. 18,19
  - 5. The Rebellious Israelites - Num. 13,14,23; I Cor. 10:1-10; Heb. 3:7-19.
  - 6. Nadab and Abihu - Lev. 10:1,2.
  - 7. Uzzah - II Sam. 6:1-7.
  - 8. Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5.
  - 9. Eternal punishment in Hell: Matt. 10:28; Luke 16:19-31; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-15.
- F. He is a Righteous Judge: II Tim. 4:8; cf. Psalm 67:4; 96:10; Jer. 11:20.

### IV. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS IN JUSTIFYING (SAVING) THE OBEDIENT:

- A. God has always blessed the obedient.
- B. His Righteous Judgement involves Love and Mercy:
  - 1. No hope for anyone without God's mercy - because all have sinned. Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1,2.
  - 2. God's love and mercy made the plan whereby the obedient could be saved in Christ. Tit. 3:3-7; Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 5:8.
  - 3. God's eternal plan for man was for him to live forever with God in heaven. Matt. 25:34; Jn. 14:1-3; II Pet. 3:9; I Tim. 2:4.
- C. How can God be Just and Justify man who has sinned?
  - 1. Answer: Romans 3:23-26
    - a. Justice is met; the penalty of sin is paid in Christ.
    - b. Jesus died in our place. Heb. 2:9; I Jn. 2:1,2.
  - 2. Not all will be saved (Matt. 7:13,14). God saves those who want to be saved.
    - a. God devised a plan whereby those who wanted to be saved could have access to the benefits of the death of Christ.

- b. Through obedience to the Gospel we demonstrate our desire to be saved and thus have access to the benefits of the death of Christ. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8,9; Rom. 5:1,2.
- D. The Justice of God demands that those who reject Him and His plan be punished eternally. II Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 25:46.

### CONCLUSION:

1. We serve a great and wonderful God:
    - a. A God of Love, Mercy, and Kindness.
    - b. He also, is a Just and Righteous God.
  2. With God as our example, we must strive to live righteous lives:
    - a. Tit. 2:11-14
    - b. I Kings 8:32
    - c. Psalm 1:6; 5:12
- 

## GOD IS FORGIVING

*Charles W. Leonard*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Forgiveness is something that everyone wants. It permits one to be viewed as though he has never sinned.
2. God makes it possible for fallen man to have forgiveness.
3. It is one of God's great attributes.
4. Both the Old and New Testaments show that God is forgiving.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. FALLEN MAN IS IN NEED OF FORGIVENESS.

- A. Adam and Eve were instructed not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17).
- B. When they ate of the forbidden tree, it made forgiveness necessary (Gen. 3:6).
- C. Spiritual and physical death is the result of man's sin (Rom. 5:12).
- D. The Bible affirms that there is none righteous (Rom. 3:10).
- E. All who have reached the age of accountability are guilty of sin (Rom. 3:23).
- F. Christians also sin and are in need of forgiveness (1 John 1:8-10).
- G. Those who have not obeyed the Gospel are in need of forgiveness (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

**II. GOD HAS MADE PROVISIONS FOR MAN'S FORGIVENESS.**

- A. The first prophecy of Christ was given after man sinned (Gen. 3:15).
- B. The blood of animals under the Old Law could not atone for sin (Heb. 9:12).
- C. Christ's blood was shed so that man could have forgiveness (Matt. 26:28).
- D. Forgiveness is possible only through the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).
- E. Provisions for forgiveness was made by God because of the great love he has for man (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

**III. GOD IS WILLING TO FORGIVE.**

- A. God repeatedly forgave the Jews in the Old Testament.
- B. It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).
- C. The Bible teaches that God is ever willing to forgive (Psa. 86:5).
- D. God promised forgiveness to those of us who live this side of the cross (Jer. 31:31-34).
- E. Christians are people who have been forgiven (1 John 2:12; Col. 2:13).
- F. Christians are to forgive to be like God and Christ (Eph. 4:32).
- E. When God forgives, sins are removed far from us (Psa. 103:12).

**IV. THE PLACE OF FORGIVENESS IS UNDER THE BLOOD AND IN THE BODY.**

- A. There is no forgiveness apart from the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:22).
- B. The blood of Christ was shed for the remission of sin (Matt. 26:28).
- C. The church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
- D. One is under the blood when he obeys the Gospel and walks in the light (Rom. 6:3; 6:17-18; 1 John 1:7).
- E. One is baptized into the one body the church (1 Cor. 12:13).
- F. The body was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
- G. Christ is the Savior of the body the church (Eph. 5:25).

**V. THERE ARE BARRIERS TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

- A. Those who refuse to repent, will not be forgiven (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
- B. Those who refuse to forgive are also refusing forgiveness (Matt.

6:12, 14, 15).

- C. To remove the barriers, we must comply with God's will (2 Chron. 7:14).

### CONCLUSION:

1. God is a God of forgiveness.
  2. Forgiveness is available to all, but only the obedient will receive it.
  3. The unforgiven have no hope in this life or the life to come.
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## THE OMNIPOTENT GOD

### Revelation 19:6

*Charles W. Leonard*

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The word omnipotent is found only once in the Bible (Rev. 19:6).
2. A word which comes from the same greek work is the word "Almighty", which is found fifty seven times.
3. These words refer to the power and sovereign or absolute rule of God.
4. We will look at some things God cannot do, His great power, and proof that He is "The Omnipotent God."

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHICH GOD CANNOT DO BECAUSE THEY ARE INCONSISTENT WITH HIS NATURE.

- A. God cannot look upon iniquity with approval (Hab. 1:13).
- B. God cannot deny himself (2 Tim. 2:13).
- C. It is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18).
- D. God cannot be tempted to sin (James 1:13).
- E. He cannot permit flesh and blood to enter the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:50).
- F. God cannot save man without the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:4; Heb. 9:12, 28; Matt. 26:28).

#### II. GOD DOES HAVE GREAT POWER.

- A. Power belongs to God (Psa. 62:11).
- B. He has great power (Psa. 66:3; Psa. 147:5).
- C. The power of God's anger is unknown (Psa. 90:11).
- D. His great power is to be praised (Psa. 21:13; Psa. 59:16).
- E. He gives power to others ((Psa. 68:35; Matt. 28:18).

### III. GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS GREAT POWER.

- A. His great power was demonstrated in creation (Psa. 102:25; Jer. 32:17; John 1:3; Heb. 1:2; Heb. 1:10; Col. 1:16; Heb. 11:3; Psa. 33:6).
- B. Inspiration is also proof of God's great power (Matt. 10:19-20; 2 Peter 1:21; Acts 2:4; 1 Cor. 12:13).
- C. His great power was demonstrated by miracles recorded in the Bible (Matt. 11:2-5; John 20:30-31).
- D. The resurrection is one of the greatest manifestations of God's great power (Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 15:22; 1 Cor. 15:57).
- E. The coming of Christ in judgment will be with power and great glory (Matt. 24:30; Matt. 25:31-32; John 5:22; Acts 17:31).
- F. God's great power is over Heaven and Earth (Matt. 9:6; Matt. 28:18).

#### CONCLUSION:

1. God has given adequate proof that he is "The Omnipotent God."
  2. We read of God's great power, but do we believe it?
  3. Those who do not believe and obey him will ultimately feel the power of his great wrath.
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## The Eternal God

*L.E. Wishum*

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. "Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God" (Ps. 90:2). This finite mind cannot comprehend, or explain, The Eternal God.
2. "O the depth, of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past tracing out!" (Rom. 11:33-36).
  - a. Only by revelation of Himself that we can know of Him (Eph. 3:3).
  - b. And, I cannot explain all that He has revealed of Himself.
3. Therefore, we can only speak a little of Him in a small lesson.

#### DISCUSSION:

#### I. AN ATTEMPT TO GIVE DEFINITIONS OF THE SUBJECT - THE ETERNAL GOD!

- A. THE - Definitely only one Eternal Godhead (Is. 43:10,11; Ep.

- 4:6). "Thus saith Jehovah...I am the first, and I am the last, and besides Me there is no God" (Isa. 44:6).
- B. ETERNAL - Without beginning and without end, perpetual (Ps. 90:2).
1. Self - existent - immutable (Ps. 102:25-27).
  2. Unchangeable - "Which was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8).
  3. Seen in contrast to time (2 Cor. 4:18 and Job 38:4).
- C. GOD - Is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24). Omniscient & Omnipotent (Ps. 147:5).
1. Appellations used in Bible may help define God, Eternal.
    - a. Elohim (pl. Godhead) (Gen. 1:1,26). Creator and first Cause.
    - b. Adonai (Lord, hundreds of times). Ruler of all (Deut. 10:17).
    - c. YHWH (Jehovah) "I Am because I Am" (Ex. 3:14). The One Self-existent God. YAHWEH only used of true God (Ex. 6:2,3; 20:7).
  2. The Scribes, because of sacred reverence, ceased using YAHWEH and substituted "Lord". They referred to the Name using four letters (JHVH, YHWH), or Tet'ra-gram'ma-ton, written without vowel points. So the pronunciation was lost.
  3. Vine's states Jehovah is found 6,828 times in the Bible.

## II. GOD'S REVEALED WORD STATES THAT HE IS THE ETERNAL GOD.

- A. "The Eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). A most assuring and comforting statement.
1. Hope in obeying Him rests on His being eternal (Rom. 16:26).
  2. Abraham called "on the Name of the...everlasting God" (Gen. 21:33).
    - a. He was assured that nothing too hard for Jehovah (Gen. 18:14).
    - b. Being Eternal God, He performed the promises (Rom. 4:21).
    - c. He cannot die, lie, or fail - thus, hope (Heb. 6:15-20).
  3. So God's prophecies, miracles and dealings with mankind in history prove Him to be Eternal (2 Pet. 3:9). (Ge. 3:15; 2

Kgs. 6). "Trust in Jehovah forever; for in Jehovah, even Jehovah is an everlasting rock" (Isa. 26:4,33). (See Jn. 13:19).

- B. "Hast thou not known?...the everlasting God, Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of His understanding" (Isa. 40:28).
1. Thus, being everlasting, He blesses (Isa. 40:29-31; Heb. 7:28).
  2. "The loving kindness of Jehovah is from everlasting to everlasting" (Ps. 103:17). This because He is everlasting!
  3. Remember, He is also everlasting Judge and Ruler (Jer. 10:10).
- C. Therefore, "Blessed be Jehovah...from everlasting even to everlasting. And let all the people say, Amen!" (Ps. 106:48).

### III. GOD'S CREATION REVEALS THAT HE IS THE ETERNAL GOD (Gen. 1:1)

- A. The fact of creation reveals The Eternal Cause (Ps. 33:69).
1. Beginning and end points to eternal control (Ps. 102:25-27).
    - a. Creation teaches the eternal God (Ac. 17:24-28)
    - b. Operation of creation teaches (Ac. 14:17; Gen. 8:22; 1:14).
    - c. Ask the creation to teach (Job 12:7). (The Water spider).
  2. Thus, creation reveals The Eternal Power & Divinity (Rom. 1:20)
- B. Eternal Purpose points to The Eternal Mind (Eph. 3:11 ASV).
1. "Before the day was I am He...I will work, and who can hinder it?" (Isa. 43:13). Not change with time as man (Ps. 50:21).
    - a. Created the universe with purpose (Isa. 45:12,18).
    - b. Working the counsel of His will, demands Eternal (Eph. 1:11).
    - c. Time cannot hinder The Eternal (2 Pet. 3:9; Gen. 3:15; 2 Kgs. 6).
  2. The end purpose speaks of Eternal Power (2 Pet. 3:7,13).
- C. Eternal spirit of man reveals The Eternal Father (Heb. 12:9).
1. "Formed man...breath of life...living soul" (Ge. 2:7; Is. 42:5).
    - a. Power of life & death, says Eternal (Deut. 30:19; Ecc. 12:7).
    - b. Man's spirit teaches (2 Cor. 4:16; Lk. 16:22ff; I Cor.



15:44).

2. Eternal purpose of spirits teach Eternal God (Heb. 2:10).

#### **IV. CHRIST REVEALED HIS ETERNAL FATHER (Jn. 6:57; 5:26,27; 14:9)**

- A. "to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal Him" (Mt. 11:27; Jn. 1:18).
  1. "Only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality" (I Tim. 6:15,16), thus, Eternal.
  2. Same characteristics - Eternal (Isa. 9:6) I Am (Jn. 8:58).
    - a. "First and the last" (Rev. 1:17,18 and Isa. 48:12).
    - b. "Thy years shall not fail" (Heb. 1:12 and Ps. 102:27).
    - c. Omniscient (Col. 2:3) and Omnipotent (Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 1:3).
  3. "In Him dwelleth all the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9).
- B. Christ came to reveal Eternal love and mercy (Rom. 5:8-11).
  1. But also His almighty severity (Rom. 11:22) Eternal (Jude 7).
  2. His longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:9). But also the end (2 Thes. 1:7-9).
- C. Eternal God demands Eternal judgement (Heb. 6:2; Mt. 25:46).

#### **V. THE THINGS SAID TO BE ETERNAL REVEAL THE ETERNAL GOD (2 Cor. 5:1)**

- A. As examples, here are some things said to be eternal:
  1. Purpose (Tit. 1:2); man's spirit (Ecc. 12:7); mercy (Ps. 103:17); word (Heb.13:20); redemption (Heb. 9:12); salvation (Heb. 5:9); kingdom (2 Pet. 1:11); life (Jn. 17:3); inheritance (Heb. 9:15).
  2. These eternals are founded on and teach Eternal God (Tit. 1:2).
- B. So, "from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God" (Ps. 90:2).

**CONCLUSION: "I AM BECAUSE I AM" (Ex. 3:14). HE IS THE "Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 3:8). "The Eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). And, "Blessed be Jehovah...from everlasting to everlasting. And let all the people say, Amen!" (Ps. 106:48).**

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# GOD THE SUSTAINER

*Garland M. Robinson*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Love, mercy, kindness and longsuffering describe some of the attributes of God.
  - a. Moses listed some of God's attributes in Exodus 34:6-7: "*And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, <sup>1</sup>Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*"
  - b. It is through these and many more that God sustains his creation.
  - c. In this sense, "God the sustainer" also describes an attribute of Jehovah.
2. "Sustain" means:
  - a. "1. To keep in existence or effect; maintain. 2. To supply with necessities or nourishment. 3. To keep from falling or sinking" (American Heritage Dict.).
  - b. "2. To provide for the support or maintenance of: to supply with sustenance: nourish" (Webster).
3. The word "God" is from the same Saxon root word as "good."
  - a. God truly is a good God and loving God.
  - b. His goodness causes his continual care in watching over his creation.
4. It is God's nature to sustain what is his. His nature includes his:
  - a. *Substance* — He is a Spirit (John 4:24).
  - b. *Duration* (Psa. 90:2; 106:48; 41:13).
  - c. *Unchangableness* (James 1:17).
  - d. *Omnipresence* (Jer. 23:24; Psa. 139:7-14).
  - e. *Omniscience* (Heb. 4:12-13).
  - f. *Omnipotence* (Gen. 18:14; Rev. 11:17; Job 26:7).
  - g. *Ownership* (I Chron. 29:11; Psa. 89:11).
  - h. *Providence* (Luke 12:6-7; Esther 4:14).
  - i. *Purity* (Rev. 4:8; Deut. 32:4).
  - j. *Justice* (Gen. 18:25; Job 8:3; Psa. 89:14).
  - k. *Wisdom* (Rom. 11:33; I Cor. 1:21,24).
  - l. *Mercy* (I Chron. 16:41; Psa. 107:1).
  - m. And many other attributes presented in this lectureship.

## I. GOD SUSTAINS THE UNIVERSE — ALL HIS CREATION.

- A. Genesis 1 describes, in general, the beginning of all that exists in the physical universe.
1. Genesis 2 describes in more detail the creation of man (Adam) and woman (Eve).
  2. Exod. 20:11 *"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."*
  3. Exod. 31:17 *"...for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."*
  4. Jer. 32:17 *"Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee."*
  5. Jer. 51:15 *"He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding."*
- B. All of creation is sustained by God's omnipotent power.
1. Heb. 1:3 *"...and upholding all things by the word of his power...."*
  2. Acts 17:24-28 *"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup>Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; <sup>26</sup>And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; <sup>27</sup>That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: <sup>28</sup>For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."*
  3. Col. 1:16-17 *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."*
  4. All living creatures, especially man, have their very existence in Him today!
  5. God upholds us, gives us life and breath, and in him we live, move and have our being.

6. Should we then take for granted the very air we breathe, the water we drink or the food we eat?
- C. The perfect and intricate balance of creation (nature) stands as a reminder of not only God's creative work but also his watchful care over it to maintain and sustain it.
1. How is it that men are able to send satellites into space and rendezvous with other satellites or even planets, when at the time of launch, they are in an opposite direction?
  2. How is it that men are able to predict so accurately when Haley's comet, or other natural phenomena, will visit earth again or when the next lunar or solar eclipse will be and where the best place will be to view it?
  3. How is it that the same laws of thermodynamics, aerodynamics, biology, science, etc., exists without change today as they did yesterday, 100 years ago, or 1,000 years ago and will continue to exist, if the Lord tarries his coming, a thousand years from now and beyond?
  4. It is by God's **sustaining power** that such is possible!
  5. Gen. 8:22 *"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."*

## II. GOD SUSTAINS OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS.

- A. Joseph in Egypt (Gen. chapters 37—50).
1. In His providence, God was taking care of his people Israel.
  2. Gen. 50:20 *"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."*
- B. Elijah was fed by ravens.
1. I Kings 17:4 *"And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there."*
  2. God was taking care of his faithful servant.
- C. Elijah and the woman of Zarephath.
1. I Kings 17:9 *"Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to **sustain** thee."*
  2. vs.10-16 The barrel of meal nor the cruse of oil did not fail.
- D. God sustained Israel in the wilderness.
1. Neh. 9:21 *"Yea, forty years didst thou **sustain** them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed*

*not old, and their feet swelled not."*

2. This shows the great concern and care God has for his people.
- E. Matt. 6:33 *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*
1. The "things" spoken of in the context are the necessities of life: food and drink.
  2. Psalm 37:25 *"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."*

### III. GOD SUSTAINS OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

- A. James 1:17 *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*
1. Eph. 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"*
  2. Psa. 84:11 *"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."*
- B. Jer. 2:13 *"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."*
1. The word "hold" is the word for "sustain."
  2. When men forsake God, the only true sustainer, they have forsaken their only hope!
  3. Children of God through the ages have so often turned to false gods that cannot sustain them.
  4. Psa. 55:22 *"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."*
- C. God gives help, courage and strength.
1. Psa. 3:5 *"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me."*
  2. Psa. 37:17 *"For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous."*
  3. Psa. 37:24 *"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."*
  4. Psa. 51:12 *"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."*

5. Psa. 54:4 "*Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.*"
6. Psa. 119:116 "*Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.*"
7. Psa. 145:14 "*The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.*"
8. Isa. 59:16 "*And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*"

#### IV. GOD SUSTAINS HIS WORD.

- A. Psa. 19:7 "*...the testimony of the Lord is sure.*"
- B. Matt. 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33 "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*"
- C. I Peter 1:24-25 "*For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: <sup>25</sup>But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you*" (cf. Isa. 40:7-8).
- D. Jer. 1:12 "*...I will hasten (watch over, sustain) my word to perform it.*"
- E. Since his word will judge us after this life (John 12:48), he must sustain it.

#### V. GOD SUSTAINS HIS CHURCH.

- A. Dan. 2:44 "*And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*"
- B. Matt. 16:18 "*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*"
  1. Acts 5:38-39 "*And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: <sup>39</sup>But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.*"
  2. Eph. 3:10-11 "*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church*

*the manifold wisdom of God, <sup>11</sup>According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

3. Eph. 5:25-27 "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup>That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" Since the church will be presented to God when life on this earth is over, it will be sustained.
4. I Tim. 3:15 "*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*" The church is the pillar and ground of the truth, therefore, God watches over it, sustains it, that it will not cease.
5. Heb. 12:28 "*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*"

## CONCLUSION:

1. God sustains his saints — those that love him.  
Rom. 8:35-39 "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup>Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
  2. Are you a child of God? If not, he will not sustain you.
  3. Believe (John 8:24), Repent (Acts 2:38; 17:30), Confess (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10) and be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21), be Faithful (I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).
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## The Kindness Of God

*Calvin Pugh*

### INTRODUCTON:

**Kindness:** The state of quality of being kind, of good nature, proceeding from a good-nature, readiness to benefit or please others; compassion, tenderness, understanding.

The kindness of God can be seen in many topics. I will approach the subject using 14 topics and use only verses from the Psalms. All verse references are from the Psalms.

### 1. THE KINDNESS OF GOD CAN BE SEEN IN THE CREATION:

- |           |           |             |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| A. 8:3    | D. 19:1   | F. 121:2    |
| B. 33:6   | E. 104:24 | G. (Of Man) |
| C. 119:90 |           | 95:6; 100:3 |

### 2. BECAUSE OF GOD'S KINDNESS WE HAVE ACCESS TO HIM:

- A. 145:18-19

### 3. KINDNESS CAN BE SEEN IN HIS FAITHFULNESS:

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| A. 18:30 | D. 89:1  | G. 100:5  |
| B. 19:9  | E. 92:1  | H. 103:17 |
| C. 37:28 | F. 94:14 | I. 111:5  |

### 4. GOD'S GOODNESS SHOWS HIS KINDNESS:

- |         |          |          |
|---------|----------|----------|
| A. 17:7 | D. 36:7  | G. 69:16 |
| B. 25:8 | E. 52:1  | H. 107:8 |
| C. 33:5 | F. 68:19 |          |

### 5. HIS GRACE IS KIND:

- A. 84:11                      B. 94:19

### 6. HIS JUSTICE IS KIND:

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| A. 7:11  | E. 58:11 | H. 89:14 |
| B. 9:7   | F. 62:12 | I. 96:13 |
| C. 19:9  | G. 67:4  | J. 103:6 |
| D. 35:24 |          |          |

### 7. KINDNESS CAN BE SEEN IN HIS LONG-SUFFERING:

- A. 86:15                      B. 103:8



**8. GOD'S LOVE IS KIND:**

- A. 63:3
- B. 146:8
- C. 42:8

**9. HIS MERCY IS KIND:**

- |          |             |          |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| A. 25:6  | D. 86:5     | G. 111:4 |
| B. 31:7  | E. 89:2     | H. 117:2 |
| C. 62:12 | F. 103:8,17 | I. 145:8 |

**10. KINDNESS AS SEEN IN HIS POWER:**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| A. 21:13 | D. 77:14 |
| B. 29:4  | E. 111:6 |
| C. 33:9  |          |

**11. HIS KINDNESS CAN BE SEEN AS A PRESERVER:**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| A. 17:7  | D. 97:10 |
| B. 37:17 | E. 112:4 |
| C. 50:17 |          |

**12. HIS KINDNESS AS A SAVIOR:**

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| A. 3:8   | D. 34:22 | G. 68:19 |
| B. 19:14 | E. 37:39 | H. 98:2  |
| C. 27:1  | F. 65:5  | I. 149:4 |

**13. KINDNESS IN HIS TRUTH:**

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| A. 25:10 | C. 86:11 | E. 100:5 |
| B. 33:4  | D. 89:14 |          |

**14. KINDNESS IN HIS WISDOM:**

- A. 104:24
- B. 136:5
- C. 147:5

**CONCLUSION:**

The kindness of God can be seen throughout the Bible, from Gen. through Rev., but I hope you've enjoyed His kindness as found in the Psalms.

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## **God Is Merciful**

*Outline: Norman MacIntyre*

*Speaker: Charles Blair*

"Gracious [is] the LORD, and righteous; yea, our *God [is] merciful.*"  
Psalm 116:5

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. What mercy is.
  - a. Compassion - The motivation of showing mercy is love for others manifested in an attitude of concern about their well-being.
  - b. Sympathy - Involved in mercy is an affinity, association, or relationship between persons wherein whatever affects one similarly affects the other. This is demonstrated by feeling sorrow when others are suffering, in misery, or afflicted with a hardship with the inclination to assist and alleviate such.
  - c. Kindness - One that is merciful has a disposition to be helpful and to do good to others without being solicited to do so.
  - d. Benevolence - Providing for the needs of others not on the basis of merit is a part of mercy.
  - e. Longsuffering - Mercy is also a patient endurance of offense.
  - f. Forbearance - A central idea involved in mercy is refraining from the enforcement of something that is due.
  - g. Forgiveness - Closely akin to mercy is granting relief or pardon from payment or punishment.
2. The Bible repeatedly declares that our God is merciful.
  - a. Moses declared that God is of great mercy (Nu. 14:18; De. 4:31); the historians Ezra and Nehemiah declare the mercy of God (Ez. 9:9; Ne. 9:17); King David declared that God is merciful (Ps. 103:8); the prophet Joel declared God to be merciful (Jo. 2:13); Micah says God delights in mercy (Mi. 7:18).
  - b. Paul writes that God is the Father of mercies (2 Co. 1:3); that He is rich in mercy (Ep. 2:4); and James says the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy (Ja. 5:11).

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF GOD'S MERCY?**

- A. It endures for ever (Ps. 136:1-26). In every verse of this psalm we find the phrase "for His mercy endureth for ever". It also occurs in fifteen other verses in addition to these twenty-six for

a total of forty-one occurrences. This should impress upon our minds the eternal nature of God's mercy.

B. God's mercy is conditional.

1. It is conditioned upon our love for God.

a. This is seen in various Old Testament passages. It is taught in the Decalogue (Ex. 20:5-6; De. 5:9-10). Other passages bear this out as well (De. 7:9-10; Ne. 1:5; Da. 9:4).

b. This is also the teaching of the New Testament.

1) Jude exhorts us to keep ourselves in God's love looking for the mercy for Christ unto eternal life (Ju. 21). The leading verb in this sentence is 'keep' which is in the imperative mood indicating this is a command and the verb 'looking' is a present participle which in this instance indicates concurrent action with the leading verb, i.e., the looking for Christ's mercy occurs at the same time we keep ourselves in the love of God and as a result of it. That is just a grammarian's way of saying that we must keep ourselves in God's love in order to look for and anticipate the Lord's mercy unto eternal life.

2) An exhortation to keep ourselves in God's love implies that it is possible not to be in it and that we must do something in order to be in it. Jude is here speaking of God's saving love, because we recognize that God loves all the world and is not willing that any perish (Jn. 3:16; 2 Pe. 3:9). We love God because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:10). We keep ourselves in God's love by loving Him which expresses itself in obedience to His commands (Jn. 14:21,23; 15:10; 1 Jn. 2:5; 5:3).

3) Since looking for the Lord's mercy is conditioned upon us keeping ourselves in God's love and since keeping ourselves in God's love is conditioned upon loving Him; then, it follows that the New Testament teaches that God's mercy is conditioned upon our love for Him.

2. God's mercy is conditioned upon our reverence and respect for Him (Ps. 103:17-18; Lk. 1:50). The word *fear* as used in the Bible denotes reverence and respect for God realizing His awesomeness. It also may denote fright for the alien

sinner or unfaithful saint in view of God's impending punishment of the wicked.

3. It is conditioned upon our repentance (2 Ch. 30:9; Pr. 28:13; Is. 55:7; I Jn. 1:9; Lk. 13:5).
  4. It is conditioned upon our obedience to our Creator (Ex. 20:5-6; De. 5:9-10; 7:9-10; Ne. 1:5; Da. 9:4).
  5. His mercy is conditioned upon our own mercifulness towards our fellow man (Pr. 14:31; Mt. 5:7; Ja. 2:13).
  6. It is conditioned upon us not despising His law (He. 10:26-29; cf. Nu. 15:30-36). Those that despised Moses' law died without mercy -- they did not receive God's mercy due to their disobedience. We are then asked to consider how much sorer punishment -- how much sorer punishment than dying without mercy -- will be upon those that trodden under foot the Son of God by deliberately continuing to sin.
  7. God's mercy is conditioned upon us walking before Him with all our heart (I Kg. 8:23; 2 Ch. 6:14).
  8. His mercy is conditioned upon us keeping His covenant (Ps. 25:10; Ja. 1:25).
  9. The Lord's mercy is upon as many as walk according to the rule that governs the new creature in Christ (Ga. 6:16).
  10. It is conditioned upon us trusting in the Lord (Ps. 32:10; cf. Ph. 4:6).
- C. God has mercy upon whom He wills (Ro. 9:15-16).
1. It is God's prerogative, by right of being God, to have mercy on whom He wills. God does not show mercy because of man's desires (he that willeth) or because of man's works (he that runneth) but because He is God and wills to show mercy. That is not to say, however, that God does not require certain works to be performed by man but that it is God's will to have mercy, to have it upon whomever He wills, and man cannot merit it.
  2. The question is "Upon whom does He will to have mercy?". God does not arbitrarily choose persons upon whom to show mercy. This would cause God to be a respecter of persons which He is not (Ac. 10:34-35). God chooses to show mercy upon those who comply with the previously enumerated conditions of receiving His mercy which He by His own will has set forth in His word. God has mercy upon whom He wills and He wills to have mercy upon those that comply with His will by meeting certain conditions.

D. God's mercy is universal in need and offer (Ro. 11:30-32).

1. In times past, the Gentiles did not believe but now they had obtained mercy through the unbelief of the Jews. The Jews by their rejection of Jesus hastened the preaching of the Gospel among the Gentiles (Ac. 13:46); hence, these Roman Gentiles to whom Paul was writing obtained mercy through the Jews' unbelief. These Gentiles also had a part in their obtaining mercy in that they received and obeyed the Gospel which was delivered to them (Ro. 6:17-18).
2. Paul says even now "these", the Jews, do not believe, that through "your mercy", i.e., the mercy shown to the Gentiles, the Jews might obtain mercy. How? By being provoked unto obedience (11:11,14).
3. God has concluded all, both Jews and Gentiles, in unbelief that He might have mercy upon all (Ro. 3:23; 6:23); thus, the universal need and offer of God's mercy.

## II. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF GOD'S MERCY?

A. He is forbearing and longsuffering toward us.

1. Remember that forbearance is refraining from the enforcement of something that is due and longsuffering is patient endurance of offense. God patiently endures man's sins and refrains from sending His wrath upon the disobedient by allowing time for repentance. One should not think that God tolerates sin for He doesn't (Lk. 13:3) or that He will not punish unrepented sins for He will (2 Th. 1:7-8).
2. Before the flood God granted the sinful world 120 years to repent demonstrating His forbearance and longsuffering (1 Pe. 3:20). Every day God grants this sinful world is an emphatic declaration of God's forbearance and longsuffering toward us (2 Pe. 3:9).

B. He showed exceedingly great compassion and kindness.

1. Zacharias by inspiration said that God in His mercy granted us deliverance that we might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives (Lk. 1:67,72-75).
2. He also said God through His tender mercy gave us knowledge of salvation and sent the Dayspring from on high to visit us (Lk. 1:77-78). Through the tender mercy of God Christ was sent into the world.

C. He saved us from our sins.

1. God saved us according to His mercy (Ti. 3:4-7).
    - a. We ourselves were once disobedient to God; thus, undeserving of anything from God save His wrath and punishment (v. 3).
    - b. God saved us after His kindness and love appeared (v.4). We were yet in our sins and alienated from God when the kindness and love appeared (cf. Ep. 2:4-7). Christ died for us while we were yet sinners (Ro. 5:8).
    - c. He saved us not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy (v. 5). The works of righteousness which we have done refers to meritorious works and works of our own invention. God did not save us by these works but by His mercy. Paul goes on to name baptism as a work by which we are saved and then exhorts us to be careful to maintain good works (v. 8); further evidence that the works of righteousness mentioned here is not a reference to works God has commanded.
    - d. God saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (v. 5). The washing of regeneration is a reference to baptism and is a work of righteousness ordained by God that we must submit to in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven (Jn. 3:3-5) and to receive the remission of sins (Ac. 2:38; 22:16). It is a work of righteousness that saves us (I Pe. 3:21).
    - e. He shed His kindness, love, and mercy on us abundantly through Jesus (v. 6) and He did so that being justified by His grace (and not our own works of merit) we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (v. 7).
  2. God has been very merciful to our unrighteousness and our sins and iniquities He will remember no more as He said He would (Je. 31:34; He. 8:12). Our sins are as far away from us as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:11-12).
- D. He provides for our needs in this life. Because we have a high priest that is understanding of our infirmities and was in all points tempted like we are yet without sin, we can approach the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (He. 4;15-16).
- E. He will grant eternal life to those who keep themselves in His love.

1. Jude tells us that if we keep ourselves in the love of God we can anticipate the mercy of the Lord unto eternal life (Ju. 21).
2. Peter writes that God according to His abundant mercy has begotten us unto a lively hope and to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fades not away reserved in heaven for us (I Pe. 1:3-4).

### III. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR REACTION TO GOD'S MERCY?

- A. We should comply with the previously mentioned conditions of obtaining it - love for God; reverence and respect for God; repentance; obedience; mercifulness; not despising God's law; walking before God with all our heart; keeping His covenant; walking according to the rule that governs the new creature in Christ; and trust in the Lord.
- B. We should love God with all our being.
- C. We should love and be merciful to one another (Mt. 22:38; Lk. 6:36).
- D. Because of God's mercy we should worship Him (Ro. 15:9; I Pe. 1:3).
- E. We should submit ourselves in obedience to His will (Ro. 12:1-2).

### CONCLUSION:

1. God's mercy is everlasting, conditional, upon whom He wills, and universal in need and offer.
  2. For the obedient His mercy as resulted in punishment being withheld, forbearance and longsuffering, the bestowal of compassion and kindness, salvation from our sins, provision for our needs, and eternal life.
  3. In reaction to God's mercy we should comply with the conditions of receiving it, love Him, be merciful to one another, worship God, and be obedient to His will.
  4. Finally, let us be "labourers together with God" (I Co. 3:9) for "yea, our God is merciful" (Ps. 116:5).
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# The Omnipresent God

*Victor M. Eskew*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Oftentimes, the lips of babes and sucklings will utter this prayer:  
God is great, God is good. Let us thank Him for our food.
2. So simple, yet so profound is this statement. God is great.
  - a. The Creator (Exo. 20:11; Ps. 33:6).
  - b. The Creator of man (Gen. 1:26-27).
  - c. Eternal (Deut. 33:27).
  - d. Faithful (Lam. 3:23).
  - e. Gracious and merciful (Neh. 9:31).
  - f. Holy (Exo. 15:11; Isa. 6:3).
  - g. Omniscient (Ps. 147:4).
  - h. Love (I John 4:8-19).
  - i. Omnipotent (Isa. 26:4).
  - j. Righteous (Ezra 9:15).
3. Another aspect of God's greatness which we will study is His omnipresence. Our purpose is to convince us of the usefulness of this attribute of God to our lives.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. THE FACT OF GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE.

- A. Job 28:10.
- B. Job 34:21-22.
- C. Psalm 33:13-14.
- D. Psalm 119:168.
- E. Psalm 139:7-10.
- F. Prov. 5:21.
- G. Prov. 15:3.
- H. Jer. 23:24.
- I. Heb. 4:13.
- J. I Pet. 3:12.

### II. THE MOST COMMON USE OF THIS ATTRIBUTE.

- A. Many times we see this attribute as something to be feared.
  1. Children are told not to do bad things because God is watching all they do.
  2. Preachers often preach about the "Secret Sins" of members, warning that God sees when others do not.
- B. It is not wrong or inappropriate to teach that God sees us



committing sins.

1. In the days of Noah, God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth (Gen. 6:5).
  2. While Moses was on Sinai, God saw the evil done by Israel in the camp (Exo. 32:7-10).
  3. God saw the sin of Achan when he took the forbidden spoils of Jericho (Josh. 7:10-11).
- C. It is every preacher's prayer that this knowledge about God's omnipresence will keep us from committing sin against God.

### III. OTHER BENEFITS OF THIS ATTRIBUTE.

- A. God sees all of our struggles.
1. Elijah was comforted during his struggles with despair and lack of faith (I Kings 19).
  2. II Cor. 1:3-4.
- B. God sees all of our suffering.
1. Two examples.
    - a. The children of Israel in Egypt (Exo. 3:7).
    - b. The stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:55-56).
  2. Rom. 8:35-39.
- C. God sees all of our service.
1. Proverbs 15:3 - ...beholding the evil and the good.
  2. The widow who cast into the treasury (Mk. 12:41-44).
  3. The seven churches of Asia (i.e. Ephesus, Rev. 2:2-4).
- D. God sees all seekers of truth.
1. Psalm 14:2.
  2. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26,29).
  3. John 7:17.
- E. God sees all of our secret acts of devotion (Matt. 6:3-4,6; 17-18).
- F. God sees us in our vulnerability and offers security (Psalm 46).
- G. God sees the separation of the spirit from the body.
1. Psalm 116:15.
  2. Psalm 23:4.

### CONCLUSION:

1. God is great and stands far above man (Job 11:7-9).
2. His attributes of greatness work to the advantage of His children.
3. His omnipresence:
  - a. Keeps us from sinning.
  - b. Comforts us in struggles.
  - c. Eases our suffering.

- d. Promotes our faithful service.
  - e. Saves the seeker of truth.
  - f. Rewards our secret devotion.
  - g. Protects us in our insecurities.
  - h. Gives us courage to face death.
4. We should be thankful that "There's An All-Seeing Eye Watching You."
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## **The Providence Of God**

### **Romans 8:28**

*Mike Kiser*

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. What do we mean by the word "providence"?
    - a. "The superintendence and care which God exercises over creation." (Buck)
    - b. The word from Latin, PROVIDENTIA, meaning "foresight".
    - c. The Greek is PRONOIA, meaning "forethought".
    - d. Providence is associated with the English word "provide" and connotes seeing ahead. (Garrett)
  2. Interpretation: "The Christian view affirms that God has not merely created the universe, together with all its properties and powers, and that he is preserving all that he has created, but that as a holy, benevolent, and omnipresent being, he also exercises control over it. This sovereign control is called providence." (Thiessen)
  3. Things are known by their opposite. Providence is opposed to the idea of fortune or fortuitous accidents or luck.
  4. Why should we be concerned about this subject:
    - a. The Bible has more to say about God's work in providence than in creation.
    - b. To believe in divine providence is to believe that God sees the way before us, and looks after us as we seek to walk in it.
    - c. It is either providence or other divergent views!
    - d. Departure from belief in providence leads to extremes.
      - 1) despair, pessimism, and nihilation.
      - 2) neo-occult, astrology, and parapsychology.
- I. SOME PARTICULARS ABOUT THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.**
- A. The different categories of providence:

1. General. God's preserving care of the world at large, including the physical world and the unregenerate among men.
  2. Special. Special manifestations of grace and loving kindness toward the church.
- B. The different areas in which providence is manifested.
1. Over the physical universe. Matt. 5:46; Ac. 14:17
  2. Over nature, plant and animal. Mt. 6:28-30; 10:29
  3. Over the nations of the earth.
    - a. Establishes civil authority. Rom. 13:1
    - b. Establishes rulers. Dan. 2:37-39; 4:25-35
    - c. Establishes national boundaries. Acts 17:26
  4. Over the areas of each man's existence. Mt. 10:29; Acts 17:24,25; Matt. 6:8,30
- C. The power behind it all is God's sovereignty.
1. His word. Col. 1:16,17; Heb. 1:3; Acts 17:28; II Pet. 3:5
  2. Claim of the householder. Mt. 20:15
  3. Potter and clay. Rom. 9:20,21
  4. Everything is after His will. Eph. 1:11

## II. THE PROOF WE HAVE FOR PROVIDENCE.

- A. From Reasoning:
1. Same power to sustain that created. Col. 1:16,17
  2. The Love of God. Sustain it because He made it.
  3. Divine perfections. No want to sustain.
  4. Prevalence of order throughout universe. (Kosmos)
  5. Historic evidence. (No other explanation!)
    - a. Preservation of the scriptures. Matt. 24:35
    - b. The preservation of the Jewish race.
    - c. The unfolding of the scheme of redemption.
- B. Grand illustrations from the Word of God.
1. The story of Joseph.
  2. The story of Esther.
  3. The account of the Ethiopian nobleman.
  4. The Macedonian call.
  5. (Read McGarvey's book of sermons!)
- C. What is the meaning of Romans 8:28?
1. Jesus is the ONLY clue to history. Gal. 4:4
  2. He is the focal point of history. Eph. 1:10
  3. Other religions (Hinduism and Buddhism) have no comparable understanding of God's role in history.

4. Islam and Judaism have rejected HIM!
5. Everything moves toward the end. I Cor. 15:24-28

### III. HUMAN PROBLEMS WITH DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

- A. The relationship between providence and the freedom of will.
  1. How do we reconcile the outworking of sin with divine providence?
  2. God's providence is related four ways to sin:
    - a. Preventive. Gen. 20:6; Psa. 19:13
    - b. Permissive. Hos. 4:17; Rom. 1:24,28
    - c. Directive. Gen. 50:20; Acts 4:28
    - d. Limitarian. I Cor. 10:13; II Thes. 2:6,7
- B. The prosperity of the wicked and the sufferings of the righteous.
  1. How can God be all powerful and good as to allow evil.
  2. There are two classifications of evil:
    - a. Natural. That which man endures.
    - b. Moral. What man does to himself.
- C. The matter of providence and prayer.

### IV. THE PURPOSE OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

- A. God rules! Not ruled by chance, fate, Satan, or man!
- B. That which is last in realization and attainment is first in mind and thought.
  1. Foresight and forethought implies a purpose/goal.
  2. Also a plan for achieving that end or goal.
  3. Therefore, the causes to reach the goal or end.
- C. We should keep in mind that the end of providence is not temporal and material; but moral and spiritual; that men would be holy and God will be glorified! Matt. 6:33; Rom. 8:28

### V. SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THIS DOCTRINE.

- A. Prayer: I Pet. 3:12; Matt. 7:7-11
- B. Evangelism: Matt. 28:19,20
- C. Promises: Heb. 11:6; I Pet. 5:7
- D. Temptation: I Cor. 10:13
- E. Giving: II Cor. 9:6-11
- F. Trials: II Cor. 4:17,18; Matt. 5:10-12







