

# Our Great God

## Introduction

Doing those things which promote an increase of our knowledge of God should be on every true believers short list of priorities. When occupying ourselves with this worthy endeavor, we will find ourselves doing that which pleases God Himself.

Jer. 9:23-24 - Thus says the Lord, Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things, declares the Lord.

Hos. 6:6 - For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Gaining knowledge, wisdom and an understanding of God is better than all of the gold, silver and rubies of this world and that it does not even begin to compare to anything else that you may desire in this life! In other words, gaining the knowledge of God in this life is bigger and better than any materialistic thing that you could ever buy, want or desire in this life!

Pro. 16:16 - How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

Pro. 20:15 - There is gold, and an abundance of jewels; But the lips of knowledge are a more precious thing.

Pro. 3:13-15 - How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels. And nothing you desire compares with her.

## The Goal of Our Study

The study of God must lead us to God Himself, or our study has failed to produce its fullest potential. It must lead us first to a personal relationship with Him through His Son the Lord Jesus and then to a deeper communion with Him through continued spiritual growth.

True believers should not be content with simply studying and pondering the truths in the Bible, we must take it a step further and seek to commune with the God of the

truth. All acquired truth should lead into a deeper understanding, fellowship and communion with God Himself.

## **A. God Has Revealed Himself In Several Ways**

If it were not for God choosing to reveal Himself, we would be left to ourselves to try to understand who God is.

God has chosen three ways in particular to reveal Himself:

Creation -- Conscience -- Revelation

Rom. 1:20 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Rom. 2:14-15 - For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.

1 Cor. 2:9-12 - but just as it is written, things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

It needs to be understood that no human being has the ability to understand God exhaustively. There is a limit to how much we will be able to comprehend His being. That's because we are finite creatures and God is an infinite being. This does not mean that we cannot know anything about God. It simply means that our knowledge is partial and limited. We can know God to the degree that He chooses to reveal Himself.

## **The Triune God**

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of revelation, not of natural religion, and therefore the first thing we must realize is that we are totally dependent upon the revealed Word of God for its explanation. There is not one single text that gives all

the information about this grand subject, therefore, we must search and dig in the Word so we can come to a Biblical conclusion about the Trinity.

## **1. God As a Triune Being**

The Bible emphatically teaches that God consists of three persons who are one in nature. There are three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one Being. Each person being fully God, thus making them all equal and eternal.

### **A. The Scriptural Basis for the Trinity**

Although the word “Trinity” is never used in the Bible, the idea represented by the word is taught in many places.

Gen. 1:26 - Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

Gen. 3:22 - Then the Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.

Gen. 11:7 - Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.

Is. 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I. Send me!

Is. 48:16 - Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit.

Matt. 3:16-17 - After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matt. 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus the Messiah, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

1 Pet. 1:2 - according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus the Messiah and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Jude 1:20 - But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus the Messiah to eternal life.

Deut. 6:4 - Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

The word “one” is a key word in this passage. In the Hebrew, there are two words for the word “one,” “echad” and “yachid.” “Yachid” means absolute one, like having one single grape. “Echad” refers to a compound oneness, like having one cluster of grapes that has many grapes on it, yet there is only one cluster. The Hebrew word that is used in Deut. 6:4 is “echad.” There is only one God, but He has revealed Himself as three persons.

## **B. The Mystery of the Trinity**

The doctrine of the Trinity goes beyond our ability to completely comprehend it. However, we can understand some things about it as we summarize the Bible’s teaching on the subject.

The Bible’s Teaching on the Trinity:

God is revealed in three persons  
Each Person is fully God  
There is only one God

### **God is revealed in three persons**

The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. All three are distinct persons, yet one. These distinctions are seen in a number of Bible passages.

John 1:1-2 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

1 John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus the Messiah the righteous.

Luke 4:14 - And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

John 16:7 - But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Acts 10:38 - You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

## **Each person is fully God**

The Scriptures clearly teach that each person of the Triune Godhead is fully God. Each possessing all of the attributes and qualities that manifests their Deity.

### **God the Father**

It's clearly taught in the Bible that there is a person who is called the Father, who is God.

John 6:27 - Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.

Rom. 1:7 - to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

1 Cor. 8:4,6 - ...there is no God but one. Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus the Messiah, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

### **God the Son**

It's clearly taught in the Bible that there is a person who is called the Son, who is God.

John 1:1-2, 14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb. 1:8 - But of the Son He says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

John 20:27-28 - Then He said to Thomas, reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing. Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!

Rom. 9:3-5 - For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Messiah for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, ...whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Messiah according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Messiah Jesus.

Is. 9:6 - For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Col. 2:8-9 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Messiah. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

## **God the Holy Spirit**

It's clearly taught in the Bible that there is a person who is called the Holy Spirit, who is God.

Acts 5:3-4 - But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.

1 Cor. 2:10-11 - For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

## **There is one God**

So far we have seen that God is three persons and that each person is fully God. We must take it one step further and show that these three are one. Other wise we would be supporting polytheism, but that is not what the Bible teaches.

Is. 45:5-6 - I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Is. 45:21-22 - Declare and set forth your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

James 2:19 - You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

## **C. Distinctions Between the Members of the Trinity**

Since all three members of the Trinity are fully God and fully share in all the same attributes, are there any differences that exist between them?

The differences that exist within the Trinity, revolve around their functions, not within their being or essence. The differences can best be seen in what each person does.

The differences that exist within the Trinity can be seen in what each member did in the provision of redemption.

Eph. 1:3-6 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus the Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Eph. 1:7-12 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ...In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in the Messiah would be to the praise of His glory.

Eph. 1:13-14 - In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

The differences that exist within the Trinity can be seen in what each member did in the creation of the universe.

Gen. 1:3 - Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

John 1:3 - All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Col. 1:16 - For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Gen. 1:2 - The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

## **D. How Can We Best Illustrate the Trinity**

Many individuals have come up with various analogies to try to help people better understand the concept of the Trinity.

Various Illustrations:

water, a tree, a three leaf clover, a human being, an egg

All such analogies are inadequate and breakdown when trying to be used to illustrate the concept of the Trinity.

Is. 40:12-18 - Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understand-ing? Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

It is not possible to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity with temporal things. It goes way beyond our ability to comprehend it as taught in Scripture. We take it by faith. All false religions and cults deny the Trinity thus making them inadequate forms beliefs that cannot save a soul. The Trinity is one of those essential teachings that must be believed in for salvation to take place.

How important is the Bible's teaching about the Trinity? The truth of the doctrine of the Trinity is absolutely essential if one is to have true faith. Everything rises or falls with a correct understanding of this central teaching. This truth separates true faith from every false religion.

# God The Father

## Introduction

Apart from God taking the initiative to reveal Himself to man, we would never have known the truth about Him. Mankind does not simply stumble upon the truth of who God is.

Is. 55:8-9 - For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Problems with this truth arise, because, unregenerate man believes that his ways are just fine and that his understanding of who God is, is adequate.

Ezek. 18:29 - But the house of Israel says, The way of the Lord is not right. Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right?

Prov. 14:12 - There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

The importance of knowing God can clearly be seen in a statement that Jesus made when He was praying to God the Father in John 17.

John 17:3 - This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah whom You have sent.

## **1. False Theories and Systems About God**

It should not surprise us when we discover that there is so much false teaching about God. God's arch enemy, the Devil tries to confuse people on this important issue.

### **A. Deism**

This view represents the universe as a self-sustained mechanism from which God withdraws as soon as He created it, leaving it to a process of self development. They deny that God has any personal involvement with the present world. According to a deist, after God created the universe, He allows it to run on

its own by natural laws without His personal involvement. A deist would not see the need for prayer or seek intimate fellowship with God.

## **B. Atheism**

This view totally denies God's existence. Only the foolish and wicked person can come to a place where they deny the existence of God.

Ps. 14:1 - The fool has said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

Ps. 53:1 - The fool has said in his heart, There is no God, They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; There is no one who does good.

Ps. 10:3-4 - For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord. The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, There is no God.

## **C. Agnosticism**

This view holds that there is no sufficient ground for either a positive or a negative answer to the question: Does God exist?

Rom. 1:18-19, 21 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

## **D. Pantheism**

This view holds the belief that God is everything and that everything is God. This belief confuses God with nature and with matter. It confuses the Creator with the things He has created. In some instances the excessive concern for the environment that is prevalent in our day is a result of pantheistic beliefs.

## **E. Polytheism**

This view involves the belief in many gods, or in a plurality of gods. Many people in India are polytheistic.

All of these views of God are wrong and are not found in Scripture. They lead to wrong conclusions about the one true God as revealed in the Bible.

## **2. God's Essential Nature**

The Bible speaks of several different characteristics of God that helps us understand who He is.

### **A. God is Personality**

The Bible presents God as a being with self-consciousness and will, capable of feeling and choosing and having the capacity of entering into relationships with other personal beings.

#### Evidences of God's Personality

He has a name, intellect, emotions, and a will.

Ex. 3:13-14 - Then Moses said to God, Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you. Now they may say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them? God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM; and He said, Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.

Ps. 115:3 - But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Ps. 147:5 - Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Is. 46:10 - Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.

Dan. 4:35 - All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, What have You done?

1 John 4:16 - We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

### **B. God is Spirit**

The Bible presents God as Spirit. No one has seen God at anytime. In the Old Testament, there were several ways that God presence was manifested. The pillar

of fire, the cloud by day, and the Shekina Glory are but a few. He is best seen in the person of Jesus the Messiah.

John 4:24 - God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 14:9 - Jesus said to him, Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, Show us the Father?

1 Tim. 1:17 - Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

### **3. Attributes of God the Father**

An attribute is a characteristic belonging to its subject and by which the subject is identified. God makes Himself known by His attributes.

Why is it so important for us to take the time to understand the attributes of God? I want us to see that there are some very practical benefits when we learn more of the wonderful character of our great God. We will find knowing God to be very helpful, especially when confronted with trials.

There are some excellent examples in Scripture of people who drew off of their knowledge of God when they found themselves in desperate circumstances. I would suggest that we too will find comfort in our trials when we get to know God better.

Hab 1:12-3 - Are You not from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct. Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor.

2 Chr 20:1-9 - Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi). Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD. Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court, and he said, O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that

no one can stand against You. Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.

Rehearsing the attributes of God, to God, is not for His benefit, but for ours. It refocuses our mind on the God in which we profess to believe in.

There are two types of attributes: communicable and non-communicable. Communicable attributes are those attributes that are shared by mankind to some degree. Non-communicable attributes are true of God and God alone.

Here are some of God's attributes:

Omnipresent -- Omnipotent -- Omniscient -- Immutable -- Infinite -- Transcendent -- Self-existent -- Self-sufficient -- Sovereign -- Eternal -- Merciful -- Gracious -- Incomprehensible -- Holy -- Just -- Truthful -- Love -- Faithful -- Wise -- Perfect -- Jealous -- Wrathful -- Long-suffering -- Righteous

### **A. God is Self-existent**

God does not need us or the rest of His creation for anything. He is totally complete without all of that which He created. He requires no assistance from outside sources to continue to exist. No part of His creation met any kind of need that He had. Yet at the same time, His creation has the potential to bring glory to Him and bring Him joy.

God is the ground of His own existence. His only necessity is the necessity of His own being. All beings, except God Himself are dependent beings.

Acts 17:24-25 - The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.

It's not simply that God does not need anything, God could not need the creation for anything. As much as God doesn't need us, that's how much we need Him.

Prior to the creation of man and the entire universe, the Triune God existed in eternity past in total completeness. They had perfect love, fellowship and glory for all eternity.

Ps. 90:2 - Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

John 17:5 - Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:24 - Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

The fact that God is self-existent should not lead us to conclude that His creations is meaningless. His creation is meaningful because God has determined that we would be meaningful to Him.

Is. 43:7 - Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.

Is. 62:1-5 - (Israel's Future) For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning. The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the Lord will designate. You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, And a royal diadem in the hand of your God. It will no longer be said to you, Forsaken, Nor to your land will it any longer be said, Desolate; But you will be called, My delight is in her, And your land, Married; For the Lord delights in you, And to Him your land will be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, So your sons will marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

## **B. God is Omniscient**

Omniscience simply stated means that God has all knowledge. He knows everything, He never learns anything. Nothing is a surprise to Him. He knows all things actual, possible, past, present, and future, in one eternal act.

### **Insights Into God's Omniscience**

God knows all things that exist in actuality. David recognized God's omniscience by stating that He knew his actions, his thoughts and even his words before they were spoken.

God knows all the variables concerning things that have not occurred. His knowledge is infinite.

God knows all future events. As a result of God being eternal, and knows all things, events that are future to man are an “eternal now” to God. He know the end from the beginning.

God has full complete knowledge of everything at all times. His knowledge is not acquired through observation or reason.

Ps. 139:1-4 - O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

Is. 65:24 - It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Heb. 4:13 - And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Matt. 11:21 - Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Rom. 11:33-34 - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?

God’s knowledge is immediate awareness, not based on experience, deductions or inductions of fact or truth. His knowledge is not acquired knowledge, for God’s knowledge of all things is eternal, present always in His mind.

### **Practical Applications Of God’s Omniscience**

God knows our every fall, our every sin, and our every backsliding, yet his heart is fixed upon us in love.

Since God knows everything, and we don’t, it’s wisdom on our part to ask for His will for our life and for His guidance and directions for all the decisions we need to make.

This should bring tremendous comfort to all true believers. He know you are here and cares about you. He knows your cares, your anxieties and all your needs.

It should be an incentive for us to give our lives totally to Him.

Rom. 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us.

1 John 3:16 - We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:9-10 - By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

### **What Does This Mean for the Unbeliever**

It promises an accurate judgment.

It shows the folly and inferiority of mere human wisdom.

Jer. 16:17 - For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.

Rom. 2:2 - And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

Prov. 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Because God has all knowledge, that also makes Him all wise. His wisdom guarantees that whatever God chooses for Himself or for His creation is the very best that could have been chosen. There is no comparison between the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor. 1:20-2:5 - Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Messiah the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the

wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Messiah Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord. And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus the Messiah, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

### **C. God is Omnipresent**

Omnipresence simply stated means that God, in His totality, is everywhere present at all times. However, He is not present in everything, that is Pantheism.

#### **Insights Into God's Omnipresence**

This does not contradict the fact that there are varying degrees of the manifestations of His presence.

There is never a time when one can escape the presence of God.

God is present different ways in different places. No one can ever hide from God. Adam and Eve, Jonah, and other have tried it without success.

There is never a time when one can escape the presence of God.

Sometimes God is present to bless, sometimes to punish.

Ps. 139:7-10 - Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Jer. 23:23-24 - Am I a God who is near, declares the Lord, And not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill the heavens and the earth? declares the Lord.

Ps. 16:11 - You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Amos 9:1-4 - I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said, Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake, And break them on the heads of them all! Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword; They will not have a fugitive who will flee, Or a refugee who will escape. Though they dig into Sheol, From there will My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down. Though they hide on the summit of Carmel, I will search them out and take them from there; And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea, From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them. And though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword that it slay them, And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good.

Understanding God's omnipresence, will bless and comfort us as we consider that there is no place where we can go where God's presence is absent. God was with Joseph in prison, Daniel in the den of lions, Nehemiah in the emperor's palace, Esther before the king, Paul on the ship during the storm and on and on.

### **Practical Applications Of God's Omnipresence**

This should produce a tremendous amount of comfort in the heart of a true believer.

It should be an incentive for boldness as we serve the Lord.

It should motivate us to holiness.

Matt. 28:19-20 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Heb. 13:5 - ...I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.

Ps. 119:168 - I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.

Prov. 15:3 - The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

### **D. God is Omnipotent**

Omnipotence simply stated means that God is all powerful. God is all powerful and able to do whatever He wills. Since His will is limited by His nature, God can do everything that is in harmony with His perfections. There are certain things that God cannot do, because it would be a violation of His very being. God cannot do things that are not in harmony with His nature. He cannot lie, or go back on His

promises He has made in his Word, or sin. To do so would be a violation of His own standards. For example see: Titus 1:2, Heb. 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:13, and James 1:13.

### **Insights Into God's Omnipotence**

There is nothing He cannot do which is in agreement with His holy character.

The word "Almighty" is used at least 56 times in the Bible and is used to speak of God and never anybody else.

It is no more difficult for God to make an entire universe than it is for Him to make a butterfly. The reason is because He never tires. God's power is revealed in creation, preservation, redemption, and the resurrection, just to name a few.

Matt. 19:26 - And looking at them Jesus said to them, With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Ps. 115:3 - But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Rev. 19:6 - Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Is. 40:28 - Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

Ps. 33:6 - By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

Ps. 77:15 - You have by Your power redeemed Your people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph.

2 Cor. 13:4 - For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

Heb. 1:3 - And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

### **Practical Applications Of God's Omnipotence**

This should produce a tremendous amount of comfort in the heart of a true believer.

It is the basis of daily confidence and trust.

It is the basis for our worship.

It is the basis of assurance of our salvation.

2 Kin. 17:36 - But the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow yourselves down, and to Him you shall sacrifice.

John 10:27-29 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Eph. 3:20 - Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

## **E. God is Immutable**

Immutability means that God never changes in His being, essence, character or nature. Who He was in eternity past is who He is today and who He is today is who He will be tomorrow. God does not evolve into a different being with time, nor does He improve with age. Because God does not change, we can count on what He has promised in His Word to come to pass.

### **Insights Into God's Immutability**

The fact that God is immutable doesn't mean that He doesn't deal differently with people at different times. Example: Law and Grace. Change is always for better or for worse, but since God is absolute perfection, improvement or deterioration are impossible for Him.

Ps. 33:11 - The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

Ps. 102:25-27 - Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

James 1:17 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Is. 46:9-11 -Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure; Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

Mal. 3:6 - For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

### **Practical Applications Of God's Immutability**

Knowing that God doesn't change gives us the assurance that what the Bible says about Him is still true today.

It's the basis of our complete confidence and trust in the Word of God.

It's the basis of the security of our salvation.

### **F. God is Love**

Love is not merely one of His attributes, but His very nature. Love is who and what God is all about. God's love is self-giving for the benefit of others. This attribute of God shows that it is part of His nature to give of Himself for the well-being of others. The very heart of God's love is characterized by being sacrificial in nature.

### **Insights Into God's Love**

God's love has always existed because the members of the Trinity express love toward each other and they have been around for all eternity.

The self-giving love that characterizes God is clearly expressed in His relationship to human beings, especially to sinful man.

1 John 4:8 - The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

John 17:24 - Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

John 3:35 - The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

1 John 4:9-10 - By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 14:31 - but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.

Rom. 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us.

### **Insights Into God's Love**

Our love for God is best characterized by our obedience to Him as demonstrated by keeping the commandments of the Lord Jesus.

As recipients of God's love, the fitting thing for us to be doing is loving our fellow man.

1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Matt. 22:37-39 - And He said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

1 John 4:11 - Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Rom. 5:5 - and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

One of the best ways to demonstrate that we are a true disciple of Jesus is by the love that we show for one another. We don't simply love those who love us, (the Pharisees did that) but we are commanded to love our enemies.

### **Practical Applications Of God's Love**

No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, we still know that God loves us, because He proved His love for us by sending Jesus to die for our sins.

If God loved us while we were sinners, He certainly doesn't love us less if we are a child of His.

## **G. God is Holy**

The fact that God is holy means that He possesses absolute perfection in every detail and that He is completely separate from evil in His Person and in His dealings with men.

### **Insights Into God's Holiness**

The attribute of God's holiness is the only one that is repeated three times as seen in Isa. 6:1-3.

God's holiness speaks of His divine perfection and His moral purity. God is absolutely separate from and superior to His creation, while at the same time He is set apart from all that is unclean.

Ex. 15:11 - Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?

Ps. 5:4-6 - For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You. The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. You destroy those

who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit. But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

Is. 6:1-3 - In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.

Is. 57:15 - For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

God's holiness provides the pattern for true believers to imitate. He commands them to be holy because He is holy. This quality is so important, Scripture teaches that without holiness, no one will see the Lord.

1 Pet. 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.

Heb. 12:14 - Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

2 Cor. 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

## **Practical Applications Of God's Holiness**

As believers progress in sanctification, they will find themselves being more and more like their Savior the Lord Jesus. It is predestined for this to happen for all who are truly saved.

God doesn't, nor can He grow in the area of holiness. He is already perfectly holy.

### **H. God is Truthful**

God's truthfulness means that He is the one true God and that all that He says and has revealed about Himself and His creation is true, reliable and trustworthy. God represents things as they really are. All that He says and does can be trusted.

#### Insights Into God's Truthfulness

God is the sole source and standard for truth. There is no source, or higher standard for truth than God Himself.

There is nothing that man can learn or discover through any kind of science or other field of learning that can prove God to be wrong in what He has revealed about Himself or His creation.

Jer. 10:10-11 - But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them, The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.

John 17:3 - This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah whom You have sent.

Ps. 119:160 - The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

Rom. 3:4 - May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar,...

John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Heb. 6:18 - so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

## **Practical Applications Of God's Truthfulness**

That which He has told us in His Word can be completely relied upon.

God can and should be trusted and believed in more than any human being that we know.

### **I. God is Faithful**

God's faithfulness means that He will always do what He has said and fulfill all that He has promised. He is faithful to Himself, to His Word and to His people. By His faithfulness, God proves Himself to be true in all He has promised. As a result, God can always be taken at His word.

### **Insights Into God's Faithfulness**

Not only is God faithful to His promises that He has made, but all He has said about Himself and His creations is true and faithful.

There is no one who we can trust more than God in all matters of life. He can completely be relied upon to do all that He has spoken.

2 Tim. 2:13 - If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Heb. 11:11 - By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

1 Cor. 1:9 - God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus the Messiah our Lord.

Ps. 36:5 - Your lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Lam. 3:22-23 - The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

1 Pet. 4:19 - Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

God's faithfulness can be seen in a very special way in His dealings with the Jewish people. Even though, in some circles, there are many who challenge that God's promises are still going to be fulfilled by Israel, I believe the Bible clearly teaches that they will.

Deut. 7:9 - Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation...

Josh. 21:45 - Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

Ps. 89:33-36 - But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His descendants shall endure forever And his throne as the sun before Me.

### **Practical Applications Of God's Faithfulness**

God remaining faithful to Israel should give believers hope that He will also remain faithful to us.

God's faithfulness is tied in with all of His attributes that attests to His being true, reliable and trustworthy.

### **J. God is Merciful**

God is merciful, meaning that He feels pity for those in deep misery and distress. The heart of God is moved with tender affection for those whose lives are ruined by sin. It is the quality of showing compassion. In mercy, God does not give us sinners what we deserve, but temporarily withholds the punishment. However, there will come a day when His mercy ends.

### **Insights Into God's Mercy**

God's mercy is shown to those who are the least deserving of it. It is shown to those who are spiritually dead as a result of sin.

God is free to show mercy upon whomever He desires. Because His mercy is undeserved, no one can say that it is something owed to them.

Ex. 34:6 - Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.

2 Sam. 24:14 - Then David said to Gad, I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man.

Matt. 9:27 - As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, have mercy on us, Son of David!

2 Cor. 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Eph. 2:1-5 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Messiah (by grace you have been saved).

Rom. 9:15-18 - For He says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth. So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

1 Pet. 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

### **Difference Between Mercy and Grace**

In mercy, God does not give us sinners what we deserve, but temporarily withholds the punishment. In grace, God gives us sinners what we do not deserve.

### **Distinctions Concerning God's Mercy**

In studying the mercy of God as it is set forth in Scripture, a threefold distinction needs to be made. First, there's a general mercy of God, which is extended not only to all men, believers and unbelievers alike, but also to the entire creation: "His tender mercies are over all His works" - Ps. 145:9: "He gives to all life, and breath, and all things" - Acts 17:25. Second, there is a special mercy of God, which is exercised toward the children of men, regardless of their sins. "For He makes His

sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”  
- Matt. 5:45. Third, there is a sovereign mercy which is reserved for those God saves: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” - Titus 3:5.

### **Practical Applications Of God’s Mercy**

Even when we may be at our lowest, God’s mercy is there to see us through.  
If you are saved, know that it was as a direct result of God’s mercy.

### **K. God is Gracious**

This means that God delights to show unmerited favor to those who are completely undeserving of His goodness. Grace is not giving sinners what they do deserve, condemnation, God’s wrath and hell, but it is giving them what they do not deserve, salvation and heaven.

### **Insights Into God’s Grace**

Grace is the only method by which God can save sinners.

Since true salvation is by God’s grace, there is no place at all for human works.

All believers are saved by grace and we are commanded to grow in our understanding and application of God’s grace.

God promises that His grace will sustain believers through the most difficult of circumstances.

All salvation is accomplished by God’s sovereign grace

Rom. 3:24 - being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Messiah Jesus.

Rom. 11:6 - But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Eph. 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph. 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Titus 3:7 - so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2 Pet. 3:18 - but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Cor. 12:9 - And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah may dwell in me.

### **Practical Applications Of God's Grace**

Because of the principle of grace, especially in the area salvation, there is no room for boasting or taking credit for our salvation, or for that matter, anything that pertains to God's work in and through us.

Any attempt to add our works to what God has done nullifies His grace.

### **L. God is Righteous and Just**

This means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and just and is Himself the final and authoritative standard for both.

### **Insights Into God's Righteousness and Justice**

Because God is righteous and just it is necessary for Him to treat people according to His standards. He doesn't lower His standards to accommodate our sins.

Technically we as His creatures do not have the right to question God's actions. To do so is to question whether God is right and just in His ways.

The only way for a sinful human being can be acceptable before God is for His righteousness to be imputed to the believing sinner. This takes place at salvation.

Ps. 11:7 - For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.

Ps. 89:14 - Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.

Deut. 32:4 - The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Gen. 18:25 - Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?

Rom. 3:21 - But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.

Rom. 3:25-26 - whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Rom. 9:20-21 - On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, Why did you make me like this, will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

Rev. 16:4-7 - Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it. And I heard the altar saying, Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Practical Applications Of God's Righteousness and Justice

If we recognize that God is righteous and just in His dealings with us, it will help us accept what comes our way.

Realize that what people seem to be getting away with in this life, will one day be accounted for when God pours out His wrath.

### **M. God is Good**

This means that God is good and kind toward His creation, showing benevolence and kindness to all. He gives blessings and common grace to everyone. Common grace is not saving grace, but speaks of His general goodness by providing such things as rain, sunshine and crops.

## **Insights Into God's Goodness**

God's goodness is simply a reflection of who He is. God is good because that's all that He can ever be. He can be nothing less than good.

Because there is no evil or sin in God, even His judgment, wrath and punishment are good from His perspective. They accomplish His purpose and bring glory to Him.

Ps. 33:5 - He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.

Ps. 103:2-5 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

Ps. 145:9, 15-16 - The Lord is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works. The eyes of all look to You, And You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Nah. 1:7 - The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

James 1:17 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Matt. 5:45 - ...for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Rom. 2:4 - Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

For those who have experienced saving grace in addition to common grace, meaning that they are a true believer, there is a special relationship to the goodness of God. What God says in Romans 8:28 is only true for one who is saved. The truths contained in this verse do not apply to one who isn't a believer.

Rom. 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

## **Practical Applications Of God's Goodness**

When we remember our sin and disobedience, we will be much more

thankful for all the good that God showers upon us.

Believers need to keep in mind that every single thing that comes their way can work for ultimate good.

This barely scratches the surface of God and all that He has revealed of Himself. I firmly believe that one of the glorious things true believers will be doing in heaven will be learning more of God's greatness.

#### **4. The Decrees of God**

A study of the decrees of God will stretch our minds to the point where we will need to submit ourselves to the revealed Word of God. We won't be able to understand everything that we'll see about this wonderful subject, but the hardest part will be to accept it.

Nothing presents more difficulty to the untaught mind than the Bible's teachings about God's sovereign control of people, plans and things. It is offensive and preposterous to multitudes to imply that God has a plan for the whole universe down to such minute details as the hairs on someone's head and the ways of a sparrow. But He does!

Matt. 10:29-30 - Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

When we contemplate the eternal counsels and purposes of our great God, we must stand in awe and realize our total dependence upon the Holy Spirit for illumination on the subject. The natural mind views this as total foolishness and even the spiritual mind has difficulty with believing such deep truths. We must not come to hasty conclusions, but allow the Scriptures to clearly speak for themselves.

As this section will demonstrate, God's government of the world is controlled by a plan. God's government of His creation is what theologians call providence and the plan that providence executes is called predestination, or the doctrine of the decrees of God.

## **Definitions**

The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

The decrees of God may be defined as that just, wise, and holy purpose or plan by which eternally, and within Himself, He determines all things whatsoever that come to pass.

The decree of God is his firm decision by which He performs all things through His almighty power according to His counsel.

The decree of God is that term given to describe His determination of all things according to His eternal and wise purpose.

Eph. 1:11 - In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.

Eph. 3:11 - This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Messiah Jesus our Lord.

No one suggested to God that it might be good to do this or that. It was not only not suggested to Him by anyone else, it was not even suggested to God, as some have supposed, by reason of His foreknowledge whereby He saw that certain people were going to think and do certain things, in consequence of which His own thoughts were determined. Such an idea is a complete denial of what the Apostle teaches here. Everything is according to the counsel of His own will. He thought with Himself, He deliberated and meditated with Himself [in Triune relations]. The whole plan of salvation from beginning to end is exclusively of God, with nothing at all from the outside. Everything originates in God, everything comes out from God. I said at the beginning that we were considering high doctrine. A quote from  
Lloyd-Jones

### **A. The Decrees of God and Fatalism**

The decrees of God and fatalism are not synonyms. Fatalism views God as nothing more than the workings of natural or unknown impersonal forces which make all things come out in some predetermined way. The Stoic calls it destiny.

One individual explained fate by imagining man as a water beetle caught in a torrent of water. He may struggle, or he may let himself be swept along in peace simply accepting his doom. If we see God's providence as nothing more than fate, then the best we can hope for is to resign ourselves to the horrors that may lie ahead, and be swept along by blind destiny. That is not the biblical picture of God's providence. Fate is like the workings of a machine without reason or purpose. The God of Scripture acts personally to carry out His plan to a specific, known goal by directing all things for His own glory and for the blessing of His people. Fate drags us to an irrational destiny with no purpose and does not consider us as real persons.

Predestination has a good purpose and is designed by a loving God to reveal His own glory and to produce benefits for His people. The Biblical doctrine treats us as persons who participate as real beings who reflect the sovereign work of God on our hearts. The Biblical teaching does not let us blame God for our rebellion, yet it will equally not let us take credit for our restoration or for the good we do.

## **B. The Extent of the Decrees**

Nothing in the universe can be considered to be exempt from the decrees of God. If that is true, what about evil and sin?

Eph. 1:11 - In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.

One of the most common difficulties in understanding this doctrine is the presence of evil in God's universe and the free actions of intelligent creatures. If God has foreordained all that comes to pass so that there is no uncertainty that His decrees will be carried out exactly as He intended them, then how does this relate to sinful acts which are admittedly present?

Again, we are dependent upon God's revealed Word to solve this apparent dilemma. God being the cause of sin, is totally contrary to what He has revealed in His Word. It contradicts His character and His capability as a holy God. He is not sinful nor can He be.

Ps. 92:15 - To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

James 1:13 - Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

I John 1:5 - This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

God in His omniscience knew that sin would enter the universe. For good reasons He included it in His decree, but He Himself did not bring it to pass. It entered the universe by the sin of Lucifer and sins are committed to this very day as sinful humans choose to walk in ways that are contrary to God and His Word. Satan and mankind are held responsible for their evil behavior.

The decrees of God do not release man from being held responsible for the evil that they do. God's sovereignty and man's responsibility are truths that are taught in Scripture.

Luke 22:21-22 - But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table. For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!

Acts 4:27-28 - For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Acts 2:22-23 - Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

The decrees of God included sin and evil while at the same time man is held responsible for the sin and evil that they commit. God is not the author of sin, nor is He held responsible for the sins that evil and godless men commit.

### **C. Some Characteristics of God's Decrees**

The most important aspect of the Divine decree is, that it brings all things that come to pass in space and time into a plan. This plan has several characteristics to it. Knowing and understanding God's plan will help us in countless ways.

**The Divine decree is founded in wisdom**

Because God exercised His infinite wisdom in forming His decree, we can be sure that He came up with the best plan possible. He never has to revise it, nor will He ever wish that He did things differently.

Rom. 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

### **The Divine decree was formed in eternity, but is manifested in time**

The formation of the decree takes us back back in time when in eternity past the Triune God came up with His eternal plan for His universe and all that is in it.

Eph. 1:4 - just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love.

II Thes. 2:13 - But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Rev. 13:8 - All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

Acts 15:18 - Known to God from eternity are all His works.

### **The Divine decree is immutable**

Since God is immutable (He does not change), we would expect that His plans would also be unchanging. Also, because there is no defect in God, there would be no need for any adjustments to be made in anything He has ordained.

Heb. 6:17 - In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath.

Ps. 33:11 - The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

### **God's decree is certain**

All that God has decreed is certain to come to pass. Even though Satan and all of God's enemies mount attacks against Him, His decrees will prevail.

Pro. 19:21 - Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.

Isa. 46:10 - Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.

Job 42:2 - I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Ps. 2:1-7 - Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us! He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

As we can see, God decree is wisely planned out and it is certain that every aspect of it will be completely fulfilled in His perfect time and for His glory. Though man and Satan will attempt to thwart it, it stands as firm as God Himself.

## **D. Practical Implications of God's Decrees**

As one would imagine, there are several very practical results of having an understanding of God's eternal plan. The more we comprehend it, the more we can rest in His will for us as His children.

### **1. Nothing happens by luck or chance**

Even though many use these words to describe a set of circumstances, the ideas that are behind luck and chance do not fit into the concept of God decrees.

Pro. 16:33 - The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

Jonah. 1:7 - Each man said to his mate, Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

Acts 1:26 - And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

### **2. All of our circumstances have the hand of God in them**

All of our circumstances in life fall under His control, poverty or riches, sickness or health, good times or bad times, length of life. Things do not happen in a vacuum. All of our experiences falls under His providential care.

This doesn't mean we should not make plans and preparations for the future. We should live like the Lord will return at any moment, but plan as though He may not return for years. When we make plans we do so with the understanding that He may interrupt them.

James 4:13-15 - Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.

Rom. 1:10-13 - always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

Joseph, who was sold by his brothers is a wonderful example of coming to the realization that all his circumstances were under the providential hand of God.

Gen 50:20 - As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Gen 45:5-8 - Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

### **3. Complaining and murmuring becomes a means whereby we defame the purposes of God**

Since all of our circumstances fall under His control, which ones do we have the right to complain about? When we complain about our circumstances, it doesn't stop there, we are also complaining about God Himself, since He is the one who allowed them to enter our life.

If God wanted to, He could prevent things from coming into our lives. The

fact that He doesn't, means He want us to experience them. The advantage that believers have is that we know that there is a purpose for all things that come our way. Non-believers do not have that knowledge.

Job 40:2 - Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.

Rom. 9:20-21 - On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, Why did you make me like this, will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

#### **4. When we realize that whatever comes our way, comes from our loving Father, we will find rest, comfort and peace in this wonderful doctrine.**

It's a shame that this teaching is often rejected and fought against by so many because of it's difficulty to accept. I don't think it is as hard to understand as it is to believe.

If there is ever a time when we need to heed the insights that are found in Isa. 55 the time is now. Just because a teaching is difficult to accept or hard to understand, that doesn't give us the right to reject it.

Isa. 55:8-9 - For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

#### **5. God As Creator**

The Bible presents God as the creator of the universe. The Word of God states that He created everything out of nothing, that it was originally very good, and that He created it to glorify Himself.

This blasts right at the center of all the debate that revolves around evolution. No matter what supposed evidence science comes up with to prove that God had nothing to do with the now existent universe, it is nothing more that what

the Bible calls the foolish wisdom of the world. By faith, we take what the Bible clearly teaches concerning creation.

Does it make any difference if things evolved or if God created everything as stated in Scripture? It sure does! Two completely different world views are involved in the debate of creation and evolution.

## **A. God Created the Universe Out of Nothing**

The Bible's teaching on creation leads one to the conclusion that the universe was created out of nothing. Before the universe was created in six literal days, nothing else existed except God Himself.

Ps 33:6 - By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

Ps 33:9 - For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

John 1:3 - All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Acts 17:24 - The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Heb 11:3 - By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Col 1:16 - For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Acts 4:24 - And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.

As creator, God rules over all the universe and nothing in creation is to be worshipped instead of God. If the universe was not created out of nothing, then we would have to admit that matter has always existed and that it too is eternal like God.

## **B. Creation Was the Work of the Entire Trinity**

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were all involved in the act of creating the universe.

1 Cor 8:6 - yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. (Father)

John 1:3 - All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (Son)

Ps 104:24,30 - O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground. (Spirit)

When God, on the sixth day of creation finished His masterpiece, He summed it up in Gen. 1:31.

Gen 1:31 - God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **C. Creation Was a Free Act of God & He Takes Pleasure In It**

God was not forced to create the universe by some force that was outside of Himself. This was something that He decreed to do and He takes pleasure in it.

Rev 4:11 - Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.

Ps 104:31 - Let the glory of the LORD endure forever; Let the LORD be glad in His works.

Ps 148:3-5 - Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

God rejoices in His creation because they praise Him. They are a testimony to His greatness and power. Since most of creation is beyond the ability of mankind to see or make use of, there must be another purpose for it. There is, and it's the highest purpose. The universe and all that is in it was created for God's pleasure and enjoyment.

### **D. The Preservation of Creation**

Preservation refers to the fact that what God created, He maintains. This planet and the entire universe is as safe as God is. Nothing, or no one can destroy that which God is caring for.

There is a lot of talk about how we are destroying our planet, however, that is

impossible. Many people (not all) who really buy into this have put the creation above the Creator. God has a future use for this planet and nothing is going to happen to it until God is finished with it.

Rom 1:22-25 - Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

The Scriptures clearly teach that God take person interest in caring for all of creation. If He wasn't personally involved, the universe would have gone out of existence long ago.

Col 1:16-17 - For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Heb 1:3 - And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power...

## **E. The Tremendous Battle Over Creationism**

The reason why there is such a major battle over God being the creator of the universe, is because what creating the universe has ability to prove. Creation has the ability of manifesting many of God's wonderful characteristics and attributes. If you take the creation act away from God and assign it to evolution, where there doesn't even need to be a God, you take away the opportunity of seeing God in all His power and majesty.

Ps 19:1-2 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

Ps 104:24 - O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.

Is 40:26 - Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.

Rom 1:20 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

The universe and all that is in it did not come to be as a result of random chance, but it came to be as the result of the Almighty God. Removing God from the picture doesn't do away with the truth of what the Word of God clearly teaches. If you deny God as creator, you may as well throw out the whole Bible. How could you trust it in all that it says about salvation, eternal life and Jesus, etc.

It is not a minor flaw to deny the Biblical account of creation. If it is not true as stated in the Scriptures, then God has lied to us and can't be trusted in anything He has said.