

# In His Image

Attributes of God Given to Humankind - Lesson Three  
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Multiple Sources)

Introduction: Ex. 15:11; Psalm 113:5

- A. The attributes of God may be classified under two main categories:
  - 1. His infinite powers; in two groups
    - a. Eternally unique to God alone
    - b. Non-communicable to humankind in this life
  - 2. His personality attributes - communicable to humankind
    - a. Given to humankind at Creation - Gen. 1:26-27

## I. COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF REVEALED ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

S. Sovereignty - There is no one greater than God

- 1. Psalm 71:19; Jer. 16:20-21; John 17:3; 1Cor. 15:27

T. Veracity - God never lies

- 1. Titus 1:2; Num. 23:19; Psalm 12:6; Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17

U. Wrath - "Wrath is the personal manifestation of God's holy, moral character in judgment against sin. Wrath is neither an impersonal process nor is it irrational and fitful like anger. It is in no way vindictive or malicious. It is holy indignation - God's anger directed against sin" (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 1986 ed., p.1108). Wrath (or anger) ascribed to man can be dangerous when it has no cause, is taken to excess, or held for an extended period of time (Matt. 5:22; Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:26). But when wrath is ascribed to God it is sinless and a true example of righteous indignation. "God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psalm 7:11). "God's wrath is a demonstration of His holy love. If God is not a God of wrath, His love is no more than frail, worthless sentimentality; the concept of mercy is meaningless; and the Cross was a cruel and unnecessary experience for his Son" (Nelson, *ibid*, p.1108).

V. Grace - The state of forgiveness given by God because He desires man to have it, not because of anything he has done to earn it; the condescension or benevolence shown by God toward the human race.

- 1. It is a spontaneous gift from God to man, generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved that takes the form of divine favor, love and clemency - Rom. 3:23-26

W. Mercy - The act of God by which He withholds what men deserve.

- 1. Dan. 9:9; 2Cor. 1:3; Neh. 9:17
- 2. Grace and mercy relative to sin are strictly Divine prerogatives
- 3. Ex. 33:19; Rom. 9:15-16
- 4. "If we could remember that the divine mercy is not a temporary mood but an attribute of God's eternal being, we would no longer fear that it will someday cease to be. Mercy never began to be, but from eternity was; so it will never ease to be. It will never be more since it is itself infinite; and it will never be less because the infinite cannot suffer diminution. Nothing that has occurred or will occur in heaven or earth or hell can change the tender mercies of our God. Forever His mercy stands, a boundless, overwhelming immensity of divine pity and compassion" (A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, 63).

X. Knowledge - God fully knows Himself

1. Job 37:16; 1John 3:20; Isa. 40:13-14
2. 1Cor. 2:10-11 - This is amazing since God's own being is infinite
3. God knows all things that exist and all things that happen.
  - a. Heb. 4:13; Isa. 46:9-10; Matt. 6:8, 10:30
4. God knows all things could happen but do not actually happen
  - a. 1Sam. 23:11-13; Matt. 11:21
  - b. To say that God knows everything is to say that every bit of knowledge is fully present in His consciousness. His knowledge never changes or grows. Therefore, God can never learn anything new, because for Him there will never be anything new or unforeseen.
  - c. "Could God at any time or in any manner receive into His mind knowledge that He did not possess and had not possessed from eternity, He would be imperfect and less than Himself" (Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy, 55).
  - d. What a comfort it is to be aware that God knows every detail possible to be known about us and loves us still.

Y. Wisdom - "Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. Wisdom is, in fact, the practical side of moral goodness. As such, it is found in its fullness only in God. He alone is naturally and entirely and invariable wise" (J. I. Packer). - Rom. 11:33

1. Apprehending the wisdom of God requires will and work
2. James 1:5, 3:13, 17; Psalm 19:7, 111:10

Z. Will - God's will is the final reason for everything that happens.

1. Eph. 1:11; Rev. 4:11; Dan. 4:28-37
2. Necessary Will is everything that God must will according to his own nature. He cannot choose to be different than who He is - Ex. 3:14
3. Free Will is everything that God decided to will but had no necessity to will according to His nature - creation, redemption, revelation of Himself
4. Secret Will - includes God's hidden decrees by which He governs the universe and determines everything that will happen
  - a. Deut. 29:29; Gen. 50:20; Acts 2:23
5. Revealed Will - God's declared will concerning what we should do or what God commands us to do.
  - a. Matt. 7:21; Eph. 5:17

Conclusion:

A. Has it occurred to you yet that these are only the revealed attributes of God? He has revealed only those things that He wants us to know in this world, that is the things we are capable of apprehending in this realm. In view of His infinite Greatness, it necessarily follows that there is much about Himself that He has chosen to reserve until He is fully revealed in all of His Glory in Heaven.

B. 2Sam. 7:18-24 - This foreshadows the Kingdom of God today