Section: Doctrine of God

Lesson 5: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Q7. Describe God: What is God like?

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**TEACHING NOTES**

**Greeting:**

Good evening church! It is truly a blessing to be here with you all on this day that the Lord has made for us to study and seek Him together! If we haven’t met yet, or you are new or visiting tonight, my name is Justin Ader. I am the Youth Director and a member of the teaching team here at Disciples Church. I have been given the privilege to teach through our next catechism question and answer tonight. I was so blessed by the work that Matt put into this question and answer four years ago that a lot of what you will hear tonight will be from his thorough study of this topic. The content he provided was solid, so no need to reinvent the wheel. I have added only a few things extra for us to consider as we study this question and answer. Before we dive in though, will you please join me in prayer.

**Q7. Describe God: What is God like?**

He is holy, He is good, He is love, He is wrath, He is just, He is wise, and He is in control of all things.

**Introduction:**

Our catechism question and answer tonight brings us to what is often referred to as the Attributes of God. Let me take a moment to define the word attribute for you using two sources.

The Webster’s Dictionary of 1828 defines attribute these two ways:

1. That which is attributed; that which is considered as belonging to, or inherent in; as, power and wisdom are attributes of the Supreme Being.

2. Quality; characteristic disposition; as bravery and generosity in men.

The Learner's Dictionary defines the word attribute this way:

1. An attribute is a quality or feature that someone or something has.

So an attribute refers to a quality or feature regarded as a characteristic of someone or something. It’s what is attributed to someone. They are qualities of someone that specifically (and in some cases uniquely) define them. The characteristics of that person or being.

When we truly desire to get to know someone, we want to know what they are like. For example, as I was preparing for this lesson, I asked my wife Krista the question: Describe Justin: What is Justin like? She answered by saying that I was funny, organized, a go-getter, loyal, a provider, and God-honoring. These are just a few of the attributes—qualities and characteristics—that Krista has come to learn about me over our 19 years of being together. When Krista and I started our relationship many years ago, we desired to get to know each other not just on a surface level, but on a deeper level. We wanted to learn about each other’s qualities and characteristics that define each of us individually—who we are as a person; and over time, since we are human, these attributes changed.

But, what about God? When we say the attributes of God, what are we talking about? We are talking about God’s character, His person, His nature; in the highest sense, it refers to the perfections of God, the being of God, the qualities of God.

I told you that over time my attributes changed, but God is unchanging, meaning that His attributes have never and will never change; they are God’s perfect qualities and characteristics.

So why does knowing the attributes of God matter? Because there is nothing more important than knowing the almighty Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of everything; who is perfect and the standard by which all things are measured. There is nothing more important to know than God. This goes for anybody, but especially for the Christian. There is nothing sweeter nor greater for the Christian than knowing the One True God—the Father who loved and chose them in eternity past to be reconciled back to Himself, the Son who bled and died for them on the cross to appease God’s righteous wrath for their sin, and the Spirit who applies the Son’s finished work to the elect through regeneration and sanctification. Christian, do you know that this is the most important thing in your life, that you know God? I pray that we all do real business with this tonight as we learn God’s attributes and make it an ongoing practice of continuing to seek God, to know Him more deeply through what He has revealed to us in Scripture.

Throughout history, great authors and other Christians that have gone before us have devoted themselves to the biblical study of God’s attributes and have encouraged others to do likewise. Unfortunately, there has been a trend of churches, believers, and unbelievers that have come up with their own opinions of who God is, rather than looking to what God has revealed of Himself to us in Scripture. It is important to have a right understanding of the one true God as He has revealed Himself to us through creation and His Word. One thing we are not to do is make up our own ideas of who God is and how He operates. This has been a problem as noted by A.W. Pink, who wrote a book on the Attributes of God. In 1930, A.W. Pink wrote: The [so-called] god of this century no more resembles the Sovereign [God] of Holy [Scripture] than does the dim flickering of a candle the glory of the midday sun. The god who is talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday school, and mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day... is a figment of human imagination, an invention of [foolish emotion].

In one of his letters to Erasmus, the famous Martin Luther said, “Your thoughts of God are too human.”

In a rebuke, God said through the psalmist the same concept in the words that we find in Psalm 50:21 “...you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.” In this Psalm, those God was speaking of did not know and understand Him rightly. They underestimated Him, thinking that He was one like them; their thinking of God was too human.

So why do we sometimes tend to think of God in human ways? I recently read an article by the late R.C. Sproul titled, “God Is Incomprehensible.” In it, Sproul said the following: “What can we know about God? That’s the most basic question of theology, for what we can know about God and whether we can know anything about Him at all determine the scope and content of our study. Here we must consider the teaching of the greatest theologians in history, all of whom have affirmed the “incomprehensibility of God.” By using the term incomprehensible, they are not referring to something we are unable to comprehend or know at all. Theologically speaking, to say God is incomprehensible is not to say that God is utterly unknowable. It is to say that none of us can comprehend God exhaustively. Incomprehensibility is related to a key tenet of the Protestant Reformation—the finite cannot contain (or grasp) the infinite. Human beings are finite creatures, so our minds always work from a finite perspective. We live, move, and have our being on a finite plane, but God lives, moves and has His being in infinity. Our finite understanding cannot contain an infinite subject; thus, God is incomprehensible.”

Pastor Rob taught on Q6 in the catechism which asks the question, “How can we know about God?” The answer to that question is straightforward. “We can never fully understand all of God exhaustively, yet we can know God truly. We can know about God through His creation and His revelation. The holy Bible is the true and final source for our understanding of God and His will for His creation.”

Our finite minds are not the only cause for why we may not have a sound understanding of God’s nature and character. Another reason may be because we haven’t been properly taught, or we haven’t properly studied God’s Word ourselves in order to have a right understanding of God based on what He has revealed to us in Scripture. Scripture must be our ultimate authority above all else in order to rightly understand and know God.

So we must ask ourselves, “What does the Bible say about x, y, or z? How does the entire Bible—God’s written word—when rightly understood, inform us on how to think about x, y, or z?” As Christians, we should always look to God’s Word for answers and guidance, not anything else. What can be known about God has been revealed to us in creation, and even more detailed, in Scripture. We don’t need to guess or give our finite opinions when it comes to describing what God is like. We only need to look to creation and Scripture to learn God’s nature and character. Knowing God is of the utmost greatest importance for the Christian and it is something we should delight in! So let’s dive in by looking at a very powerful passage to start us off.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Let me ask you, what do you boast in? God says to not boast in the things of this world like education, strength, or how financially well off you are. But boast in Him! God commands us to know Him and understand Him! God delights in this.

This passage brings up two important things. For one, we see God’s call for us to know and understand Him as His chosen people. Secondly, we see that it pleases God that we delight in the things that He delights in. What does God delight in? God delights in Himself—His character or attributes!

I must ask myself, do I delight in knowing God and understanding Him? What are my priorities? Now, I am not saying that good education, going to the gym, or having a great income are bad things. But, they must be rightly prioritized. Knowing God, rightly understanding God, and enjoying God must come first in the life of a Christian. This has been a conviction in my own life as I prioritize my days. How much time am I spending on worldly things such as TV, social media browsing, being idle, and so on, compared to my time in the Word diving deep into understanding and knowing God.

Most of us have said the phrase at one time or another, “God first or put God first.” I pray that we here at Disciples do indeed practice this because who you believe God to be and what He is like is the single most important factor in your life. I pray this for myself as well. Matt said, “For each of us, it is our understanding of God that determines what we think, how we act, what we believe, how we worship, how we raise our children…*how we invest our entire lives*. Our entire worldview is governed by our understanding of who God is. It affects how we see everything around us. Therefore, there is no understanding more important for you to have than a biblically accurate view of God.” The reason for this is because if we are wrong about who God is, we will be wrong about the highest things, including the gospel. The attributes of God describe for us who God is. The psalmist asks in… Psalm 71:19 …”O God, who is like you?” The answer is that there is no one like our God. God is unique.

Tonight I will briefly outline and overview some of God’s attributes, 19 of them actually. But we must remember, we cannot know God exhaustively, but we can know God truly based on what He has revealed to us. That means that none of us will ever arrive at knowing God. There is no end to what we can learn about God. Like I have said, we do know that we can know God truly based on what He has revealed to us in Scripture, and His Word is true. It should be our joy to want to understand, embrace, and experience in our own minds and hearts these attributes of God based on what the Bible says. And this pursuit honors God as we saw in Jeremiah 9. What we will learn tonight is vitally important for us, and it will not be the only night you will hear of God’s attributes. In fact, you have already heard some in previous weeks and you will hear more. I want to encourage us all to memorize these and continue learning. So with that brief introduction, let’s dive into God’s attributes. I am going to walk through these one by one and they are in your handout notes for you to reference with your own eyes. Along with the attribute and definition, are Scripture references for you to look up to see this attribute in Holy Scripture.

**Glossary of God’s Attributes: An Overview**

* **Aseity:** God does not owe His existence to anything or anyone outside Himself, nor does He need anything beyond Himself to maintain His existence. He is self-contained, self-existent, self-sufficient, and independent (Psalm 90:2; Psalm 102:24–27; John 5:26; Hebrews 13:8; Revelation 1:8).
* **Eternal & Infinite:** God is timeless, having always existed, and without measure or limit in greatness or duration. He transcends time and has no beginning and no end. God is infinite in essence—absolutely perfect. There are no constraints upon Him from outside of Himself (Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 90:2; Psalms 147:5; Psalms 145:3).
* **Goodness:** All that God is and does is perfectly good, and He alone is the final standard of good. There is such an absolute perfection in God’s nature and being that nothing is lacking or defective in Him, and nothing can be added to make Him better (Psalm 34:8; Psalm 145:9; Psalm 25:8; Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:28-29).
* **Grace:** Grace is a perfection of the divine character, which is exercised only toward the elect. Grace is distinguished from “mercy.” God gives unmerited grace to the guilty and unworthy that He has chosen. This includes blessings such as regeneration, faith, reconciliation, sanctification, and eternal life (Ephesians 1:2-14; Romans 11:6; Romans 3:10-12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 4:16). – Words can be used in different ways, so what is being highlighted in this is when we speak of God’s attribute of grace, its speaking of His unchanging grace for the elect.
* **Immutability:** God, in His being, perfections, will, purposes, ordinations, and promises, does not change in any way. He has always been and will always be exactly the same (Numbers 23:19-20; James 1:17; 1 Samuel 15:29; Exodus 3:14; Acts 14:15). – A shorthand way to say this is that God is unchanging. God does not change in any way.
* **Impassibility:** God does not experience emotional changes either from within or effected by His relationship to creation. He remains unchanged and unchanging, both prior and subsequent to creation (Numbers 23:19-20; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; 1 Samuel 15:29; Exodus 3:14). – This one is similar to immutability, which we just read, but focuses intentionally on emotions or passions.
* **Omnipotence:** God is able to do all His holy will. He is all-powerful (Psalm 33:9; Isaiah 46:10; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26; Job 42:2).
* **Omnipresence:** God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being. Nothing in the universe exists outside the presence of God (Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:24; Deuteronomy 4:39; Hebrews 13:5; Revelation 14:10).
* **Omniscience:** God has perfect, complete knowledge. He knows all things that exist and all things that could have existed. He never learns, nor does He forget. God cannot grow in understanding, knowledge, or wisdom, because He lacks nothing (Job 37:16; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 46:9-10; Romans 11:33-34; Matthew 11:21, 23).
* **Spirituality:** God is spirit. He exists as a being that has no parts or dimensions, is not made of any matter, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence. He is an invisible, immaterial, and infinite being that is fundamentally distinct from visible, material, and finite creatures (John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Matthew 1:23; Colossians 1:15; Luke 24:39).
* **Truthfulness & Faithfulness:** God is the original truth, the source of all truth, and the truth in all truth. All that proceeds from Him—all His words, ordinances, paths, works, commandments, and laws—are pure truth. God does not lie. He is faithful and without deceit. All His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth. He keeps all His promises (Isaiah 40:8; Numbers 23:19; John 14:6; John 17:17-19; 2 Timothy 2:15).

Now we are going to look at six of God’s attributes that are specifically mentioned in our catechism answer, but we will go into more detail with these and read the supporting Scriptures as well. These six attributes are holiness, love, wrath, justice, wisdom, and sovereignty. Let’s look at God’s holiness first:

1. **Holiness:** God is distinct, separate, and in a class by Himself (set apart). He is superior to creation in every way and above all. He is morally pure (without any sin), and He is holy in relation to every aspect of His nature and character. Purity and the sum of all moral excellency are found in Him (Exodus 15:11; 1 Samuel 2:2; Revelation 4:8; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 1:5; Psalm 99:3).

Revelation 4:8b “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

In Scripture, we find a few declarations of God as holy, holy, holy. In the Hebrew language, repeating something three times declares it to be highly important. It is the strongest form of speech in Hebrew. God’s holiness is the only attribute of His that is exalted in this manner. All people must know that God is holy! What we understand about this one attribute will determine what we understand about God, ourselves, sin, salvation…the whole of reality. As we saw in our definition, the word “holy” can mean "set apart." This is the easiest definition to remember for the word holy—set apart. In this, God is above all of His creation and is totally superior to and distinct from everything that He has made. God is distinct, separate, and in a class by Himself. He is set apart. He is superior to creation in every way and above all. The holiness of God also stresses the fact that He is separate from all that is profane and sinful. Scripture declares that God does not delight in wickedness; and evil will not dwell with Him. God is faultless, pure, and infallible! The next attribute in our answer is…

1. **Love:** God is love; it is not simply that God loves, but that He is love itself, and any true love has its origin in Him. God gives Himself for the blessing and salvation of undeserving sinners. The love of God is uninfluenced; there was nothing in the recipients of His love to call it into exercise, and nothing in the recipients to attract or prompt it (1 John 4:8; Ephesians 5:1-2; John 15:9-11; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 1:2-6).

1 John 4:8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us [the Church].

Love as God’s attribute is much more than an emotion, an attitude or work; it is His very being, His very nature. God not only loves—He is love. He is the God of love. He is the very essence of what true love is, and all true love flows from Him as its ultimate source. God demonstrated His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ungodly and utterly helpless men and women. It is in paying this great redemptive price that God’s love is seen as incredible as it is and our sin as heinous as it is. It is not of any merit or virtue in His people, but it is God’s love that moves Him to give Himself freely for their benefit.

As Christians, we should find rest and great joy in God’s uninfluenced, eternal, sovereign, infinite, immutable, holy and gracious love. We all have heard that God is love, whether from God’s very word or from the culture around us. But sadly, God’s attribute of love has been abused by many throughout history. What I mean by this is that people have elevated God’s love above all of His other attributes. For example, “God wouldn’t send someone to hell because God is love.” Or, “God wants us to celebrate all people no matter their sexual orientation, their sinful lifestyle, and so on because God is love.” This is just downright unbiblical. Again…

Psalm 5:4 4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

Pastor Steve said it clearly in his lesson on love in our Fruit of the Spirit Midweek series when he said: “Because God is love and therefore He defines what love truly is, then we or others use the term love, we must use it properly. When anyone uses the term love they are speaking about something that comes forth from God’s character. All people must be careful to know what love is and to use the term properly, otherwise we are claiming that God is lesser than He declares to be when He declares to be love. Church, this is why it is so offensive when the world claims love for itself and does so in ways that are utterly contrary to God’s truth as found in Scripture. When the world uses a phrase like “love is love,” as an argument to indulge in things that God calls an abomination they have hijacked the word love and lied about God in the process. It should be offensive to us, it should leave a sour taste in our mouth. It is not love. No matter how bad or how much the world uses the word love, when it is placed in lies and dishonors God who is love, it is NOT LOVE! Now we may be righteously angry at this abuse of such a beautiful attribute of God, and we can still love those who are our enemies because our love, true love, is based in God and is unchanging. We love our enemies because God loved us when we were His enemies.”

God’s love is in no sense in conflict with His holiness, righteousness, justice or His wrath. All of God’s attributes are in perfect harmony. Everything God does is loving, just as everything He does is just and right. God is the perfect example of true love. Again, because God is love, He hates sin. We see this godly love commanded to us in…

Romans 12:9 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

We’ll read the next two attributes alongside each other.

1. **Wrath:** God is a God of wrath. The wrath of God is His eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. God has justice against all evil and decreed eternal punishment against unredeemed sinners (Romans 1:18; Psalm 5:5-6; Psalm 11:5; Psalm 7:11; Revelation 14:9-10).
2. **Justice:** Based on God’s own perfect righteousness and holiness, He deals with all things rightly and completely. All that God has decreed and all that He does is completely just. He hates sin and always judges perfectly (Job 34:12; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalms 9:7-8; Romans 12:19; Romans 3:26).

Revelation 16:7 “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!”

Hebrews 12:29 …our God is a consuming fire.

Psalm 5:5-6 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

In considering the wrath of God, it is important to understand that it is not uncontrollable, irrational, or sinful; rather, His wrath is in perfect harmony with and flows from His holiness, righteousness, love, justice, etc. It is also a necessary element of His government. Because of who God is, (good and righteous), He must react adversely to sin. God is holy; therefore, evil repulses Him, and He does not fellowship with the wicked. God is love and zealously loves all that is good. Such intense love for righteousness manifests itself in an equally intense hatred of all that is evil. Thus, the love of God does not negate the wrath of God; rather, it confirms or guarantees it. God is righteous; therefore, He must judge wickedness and condemn it. If man is an object of God’s anger, it is because he has chosen to challenge God’s sovereignty, violate God’s holy will, and expose himself to judgment.

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in loving-kindness, and He will punish the unrepentant sinner justly, vindicating His holy name. In the greatness of His excellence, He will deal with those who do not trust in Christ—those who remain in rebellion against Him and He will send forth His burning anger to punish them.

In both the Old and New Testaments, God is described as a consuming fire and as a God who “inflicts wrath” to such an extent that the wicked will cry out for the mountains and rocks to fall upon them, as if they could hide from or escape His wrath. For this reason, the apostle Paul, in Ephesians 5:6, pleads with men not to be deceived, but to live in the light of the truth that the wrath of God will come upon those in unrepentant disobedience. God loves righteousness with all His being and hates the contrary with a righteous hatred. Thus, He cannot be morally neutral or apathetic towards the character and works of men or angels. He will judge them with uncompromised justice.

As the psalmist declares in chapter 9, “The Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.” Psalm 9:7-8

The next attribute in our answer is wisdom.

1. **Wisdom:** God is eternally wise and the source of all wisdom. God possesses wisdom perfectly and has decidedly ordained all things perfectly, including the best ways to accomplish His decisions. The wisdom of God is manifest in His creating, ordering, providence in, and governing of all things (Job 12:13; Isaiah 55:9; Romans 11:33; Romans 11:36; Acts 2:23).

Job 12:13 With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We see in Scripture that God is all-wise. God is not foolish in any way. His eternal ordinations were based on perfect complete knowledge and made in perfect wisdom. There are no mistakes in His character, knowledge, ordinations, or activity. God’s wisdom means that: in eternity past God chose the best results (or ends) and the best means to those ends. Our definition goes beyond the idea of God knowing all things; remember, it is His omniscience that describes His knowledge. His wisdom specifies that God’s eternal decisions about what He will do always prove to be wise decisions; that is, they always will bring about the best results (from God’s ultimate perspective), and they will bring about those results through the best possible means. Lastly, our answer says that God is in control of all things, which refers to His sovereignty.

1. **Sovereignty:** (When we say: “He is in control of all things” in our catechism answer, we are talking about His sovereignty and providence.) As the one true Ruler and Owner of creation, God has rightful and complete authority over all things. He has legitimate claim to absolute lordship, and His governing is just. Providentially, God controls and directs all things, and He does so to fulfill His purposes after the counsel of His own holy will for His glory. God is the Supreme Being who answers to no one and who has the absolute right to do with His creation as He desires; nothing happens without His ordination (Psalm 115:3; Ephesians 1:11; Daniel 4:35; Psalm 139:16; Isaiah 45:7).

Psalm 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Daniel 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

I’m not going to spend any time on this attribute tonight, because we have a catechism question, answer and multiple full teachings devoted to God’s sovereignty coming up at Midweek in December, Lord willing. But, I will leave you with this powerful and comforting word from Ephesians 1:11 on God’s sovereignty: “[God] works all things according to the counsel of his will.”

We have now just finished defining 19 of God’s attributes. You will find these definitions in the back of your Word of Truth Catechism book as well as the Scripture references to find these attributes in God’s holy Word. We encourage you to look them up for yourself.

Additionally, I want to read a portion of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith, whereby you will hear things we said tonight, said historically:

The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God.1  He is self-existent2 and infinite in being and perfection. His essence cannot be understood by anyone but him.3  He is a perfectly pure spirit.4  He is invisible and has no body, parts, or changeable emotions.a He alone has immortality, dwelling in light that no one can approach.5  He is unchangeable,6immense,b,7 eternal,8 incomprehensible, almighty,9 in every way infinite, absolutely holy,10 perfectly wise, wholly free, completely absolute. He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and completely righteous will11 for his own glory.12  He is most loving, gracious, merciful, and patient. He overflows with goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. He rewards those who seek him diligently.13  At the same time, he is perfectly just and terrifying in his judgments.14  He hates all sin15 and will certainly not clear the guilty.

What we’ve set forth in our study is clearly seen as the teaching of the faithful Christians that have gone before us. Praise God for this unity in core doctrine!

Before we end our lesson time tonight, we need to understand three important points about God’s attributes.

1. All of these attributes are present in the entire Godhead
2. All of these attributes are eternally permanent in God
3. All of these attributes are inseparably interconnected

Let me explain:

First, all of these attributes are present in the entire Godhead. They are found fully and equally in all three Persons of the Trinity—the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. For example, the goodness of God: Not only is God the Father absolutely good, but so also God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Each of God’s attributes are true of the entirety of the Godhead—all three Persons. The unique actions we perceive in the Persons of the Godhead are in their roles, their functions, and their ministries. One example of this is that it was God the Son who took on flesh, not the Father or the Holy Spirit. Again, all of God’s attributes are present in the entire Godhead.

The second point is that all of these attributes are eternally permanent in God. This is a very important distinction for us to understand. Each of these attributes has always and will always belong to God. God is without beginning and end. He does not discard attributes, nor does He pick up new attributes along the way. He is unchangeable; He is forever the same. This is important for us to understand because sometimes people make a false distinction between the “God of the Old Testament” and the “God of the New Testament,” as if these are two different gods or somehow He has changed attributes or plans. No, this is not true. The God of eternity past is the God of eternity future; the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament, and He will be such forever.

He never changes. Again, all of His attributes are eternally permanent.

The third point is that all of these attributes are inseparably interconnected. This means that no one divine attribute can be separated from any other attribute. Each attribute is dependent and works in perfect unity with the other attributes. For example, the eternality of God is inseparably interconnected with every other attribute. God's wisdom is eternal wisdom. God's love is eternal love. God's wrath is eternal wrath. God's truth is eternal truth.

As we think about the attributes of God, it is not as though each attribute is a part of God like a slice of a pie that all comes together to make a whole pie, like this is a part of God and here is another part of God. In this kind of wrong thinking, sometimes we end up pitting one attribute of God against another attribute of God. That is not the way these work. All that is in God is God Himself. They are woven together—inseparably interconnected. Each attribute works in perfect unity with every other attribute. That is very important for us to understand. They are never conflicting with each other. All that is in God is God Himself. Again, all of His attributes are inseparably interconnected.

**Conclusion:**

To conclude, I want to look at the benefits of knowing God’s attributes. In the beginning of the lesson I asked, “Why does knowing the attributes of God matter?” Because there is nothing more important than knowing the almighty Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of everything; who is perfect and the standard by which all things are measured. There is nothing more important than knowing God. As we have seen highlighted here tonight, we all have a joyful obligation to rightly understand God as He is, as He is revealed to us in His word. The benefit of knowing God’s attributes is that we will have a high and correct view of God. High and correct views of God are the foundation to high and holy living, worship, evangelism, and service. An accurate understanding of God will define our worship of God. It is our understanding of the greatness of God that causes our hearts to rise up in true worship of God. On the contrary, low and incorrect views of God lead to a low and incorrect way of living; of interacting with God, self, and others. We cannot know God if we have misrepresentations of who God is in our mind. There is a necessary connection in truthfully knowing God and growing as a Christian. It is our knowledge of God that defines how we live our Christian lives. If we are to live godly lives, then we must know what God is like.

Like we have said, we can never fully understand all of God exhaustively, yet we can know God truly. We can know about God through His creation and His written revelation. The holy Bible is the true and final source for our understanding of God and His will for His creation. Scripture is sufficient. So we need to get past any assumptions, preconceived notions, and possible misleading teachings in our past when it comes to God; instead we shall seek the truth about God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in His ordained way: pursing what He has revealed about Himself in the holy Bible. If we are to truly know God, if we are to grow in our understanding of God, then this must be informed by Scripture. We hope that you go to Scripture more to see these things there, and pray you will grow and be edified, for God’s glory and for your good.

Let’s Pray.