



## SURVEY OF THEOLOGY PROPER

### *What is God Like?*

Grace Institute - Pastor Jim C. Davis

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## Lecture Five (part 1): The Attributes of God

### Introduction:

How do we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God?

- 1) Muse upon the subject of the Godhead
- 2) Listen to the continual universal speechless communication of the glory of God.
- 3) Meditate upon the attributes of God

### The Attributes of God

#### 1A. Definitions

- 1B. An attribute of God is whatever God has in any way revealed as being true of Himself.
- 2B. The essence of anyone equals his being (substance) plus his attributes. The attributes of an entity are the essential qualities that belong to or, are inherent to a being. The attributes of God are essential characteristics of the divine being.
- 3B. Those qualities of God which constitute what He is. They are the very characteristics of His nature.

#### 2A. Characteristics of God's Attributes- His Attributes are...

- 1B. not our conceptions but the characteristics of His nature
- 2B. distinguishing characteristics that are inherent, intrinsic, and permanent qualities of the divine nature (inner qualities that never change)
- 3B. inseparable from God's substance or being or essence
- 4B. not component parts of God but the nature or whole of His being
- 5B. distinguished but not separated from His work
- 6B. true of each of the three persons of the Godhead
- 7B. are divided into two categories....
  - 1C. Non-Communicable --Absolute/non-moral attributes God alone possesses

Attributes: perfection, eternity, immensity, self-existence, immutability, infinity, unity, omnipresence, transcendent, omniscient, sovereign, unchanging

2C. Communicable --Relative/moral attributes God – limited sharing with creatures

Attributes: knowledge, wisdom, spirituality, goodness (love, grace, mercy, longsuffering), holiness, justice, power

3A. Purpose of studying His attributes-

1B. Those who know God...

1C. have eternal life

Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3; I John 5:10-13

2C. stand firm and take action

Daniel 11:32; Daniel 1:8-16; Daniel 6:10, 23

3C. think great thoughts about God

Daniel 2:20-23; Daniel 9:4,7,9,14

4C. are bold for God

Acts 5:29; Acts 20:24; Daniel 3:15-18; I Samuel 17:45-47

5C. have great contentment in God

Romans 8:28,35,38-39; Psalm 73:25-28; Philippians 4:11-13

6C. are humble

Job 42 (vs.1-6); Isaiah 6 (vs.5); James 4:6

7C. expand their minds

Proverbs 9:10; Colossians 2:3; Psalm 119:99, 18

8C. entrust their security and their future to His hands

John 10:27-29; Hebrews 13:5-6

2B. Those who do not know God...

1C. ...err in doctrine and practice

*Almost every error in doctrine or practice can be traced to an imperfect or wrong knowledge of God. – Tozer*

2C. ...will devastate their spiritual future.

*The way a man conceives the person and work of God will determine the spiritual future of that man. Tozer in his book, The Knowledge of the Holy, says, "were we able to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, What comes into your mind when you think about God? we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. Were we able to know exactly what our most influential leaders think of God today, we might be able with some precision to foretell where the church will stand tomorrow. -- Tozer*