

LESSON 5

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Scripture Texts: Psalm 139:7-10; Psalm 147:5; Hebrews 4:13; Genesis 17:1; Acts 17:28; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 19:6

Earlier we studied about the eternal and infinite Being. Today we study God's attitude and relation toward His creation. Our discussion of God's attributes must be in terms understandable by human beings. We are forced to use human terms in speaking of God for we are acquainted with no other terms. When we speak of God as seeing, we do not mean to imply that He has eyes such as ours, or that when He acts He exerts muscular effort. When we speak of His thoughts we do not mean that He employs the same mental processes that we do.

MEMORY VERSE: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

John 3:16

God Is Everywhere

Our God is not localized. We cannot get away from Him by fleeing to some other locality. All countries are within His jurisdiction. He is King over all creation, for He made it all, and His rule includes Heaven and the world. God's presence invades every avenue of life. He has to do not only with sacred things but with all our moving and our very being. There is no escape from Him.

Only in the atonement of Christ are the attributes of God fully reconciled and the character of God revealed. The moral attributes of God are holiness and love, which can also be understood as justice, mercy, and truth.

The Scripture texts in this lesson teach clearly that God is omnipresent, meaning that He is everywhere present at the same time. It is for us to seek to understand in what sense He is present and what this means to us. God is not an object of matter, therefore He is not confined to a limited space.

God Understands All

God is omniscient. By this we mean that God has complete knowledge of everything. This applies to past, present, and future. He knows what has been, what is, and what is to be. It is impossible for us to form a conception of limitless space or of unending time or of unmeasured distance. These are minute compared to God's understanding. We read in Acts 15:18, "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." His plans were made, and He knew what He would do before the world was created.

God Has All Power

The Almighty now reigns. God never needs to say, "I wish I could" or "I might be able to." He is not only mighty, He is almighty. He is well able to carry out all His plans. The unlimited power of God is not only potential,

it is actual. At the present moment He can do all He desires to do. Man can limit God's power. There are things that God does not do. He does not infringe on the freedom of choice He has granted man. He cannot lie.

The greatest exhibition of power of God is seen in the saving of a lost world. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation as we are told in Romans 1:16. The power exerted on the conscience of man inducing him to turn from sin to holiness is greater than that required to create a world.

God Is Holy

Among the moral attributes of God are holiness and righteousness. No other gods are worshiped because of their holiness. The seraphim sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Some men may have excellent characters, but only God within men can make them holy. God is holy in His feelings, desires, plans, purposes, and doings. God makes men holy because His nature is holy. God is love, therefore He shows no respect of persons. His condemnation is just and His forgiveness is perfectly fair. Because of our faith in God's holiness we trust Him completely.

JUST A THOUGHT

**"People who expect salvation at the eleventh hour
often die at ten-thirty."**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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