

The Azimuth Institute

Directional Study Notes

Bible Doctrines

11/25/15

Theology – The Study of God

The Attributes of God

Attributes are qualities or characteristics of a person or thing: God has both natural and moral attributes.

A. God's Natural Attributes

Natural attributes are the very nature of God's being.

They are unique to Him and to Him alone.

1 John 3:2 says, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

When it says that we will be like him, it is referring to His moral attributes (love, holiness, mercy, etc...) and not his natural attributes (omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, etc...).

B. Attributes Described

1. Transcendence (Isa. 57:15)

God is *above* His creation.

2. Immanence

Although God is *above all* (transcendence), He has seen fit to be actively involved *within* His creation (immanence).

Eph 4:6 *one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

The climax of His immanence was His coming to earth as a Baby, living for 33 years on earth, and dying on a cross for man's sins.

3. Eternity

God has *no beginning nor ending*.

There is no past, present nor future with God, only the eternal present.

He is not limited by time.

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

4. Infinity

God has *no limitation* in space.

All of His attributes are without limit.

Isa 55:8-9 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. (9) "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

5. Immutability (Psa. 102:24-27; Isa. 46:9-10)

God is *unchanging*.

God is neither capable of nor susceptible to change.

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

5. Omniscience (Heb. 4:13; Psa. 139:1-4; Rom. 11:33-34)

God is *all-knowing*.

He knows the future as well as the past.

Isaiah 46:10-11 *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: (11) Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.*

However, there is a difference between God's *knowledge* of the future and God's *determination* of the future.

God's *knowledge* means that He knows what will happen without forcing it to happen.

God's *determination* means that He can make something happen simply because it is His will.

6. Omnipresence (Psa. 139:7-10)

God is *everywhere present*.

He fills everything with His being.

Jeremiah 23:23-24 *Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? (24) Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

7. Omnipotence (Jer. 32:17; Matt. 19:26)

God is *all-powerful*.

He is to do anything.

C. God's Moral Attributes

1. Moral Attributes are characteristics of God revealed in His personal interaction with mankind.

2. Description of God's Moral Attributes

a. Holiness

God is holy and demands purity.

It is this holiness that would normally deny man entry into His presence.

Therefore, to approach God, we must do so, not through own merits (or holiness) but another.

Cf. Romans 5:1-2

b. Justice

God carries out the laws that He has imposed.

God cannot act contrary to His laws; therefore any violation thereof must be punished.

If He didn't punish, He would fail to be just and thus, to be God.

c. Righteousness

God always does what is right.

As a matter of fact, He is incapable of doing wrong.

Genesis 18:25 *That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*

d. Love

God cares for our welfare.

He loves us, wants the best for us and is working all things out for our good.

John 15:13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

It's not a noun, but a verb.

e. Mercy

God shows compassion.

He doesn't give us what we deserve.

Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

f. Grace

Grace is unmerited favor.

Whereas mercy is God' **not giving us what we deserve**, grace is God giving us **more than we deserve**.

Cf. Eph 1:6-7; 2:8

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

g. Goodness

God is good.

Psalms 145:9 *The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.*

Cf. Matt. 5:45

h. Truth

God cannot lie nor tolerate untruth.

Joh 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*