Lesson 5

The Doctrine of God

The Attributes of God

Part B

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Attributes of God



Infinite
Invisible
Incomprehensible
Immutable

Eternal



(ESV: Weeds)

Question:

Both the wheat and weeds are in the same location, who does the 'weeds' represent? Christians or not?

Answer:

The wheat: True believers

Tares or Weeds: False believers

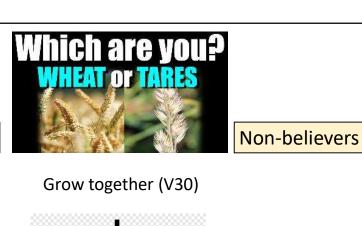


²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."" (Mat 13:24-30)



Wheat and Tares growing together





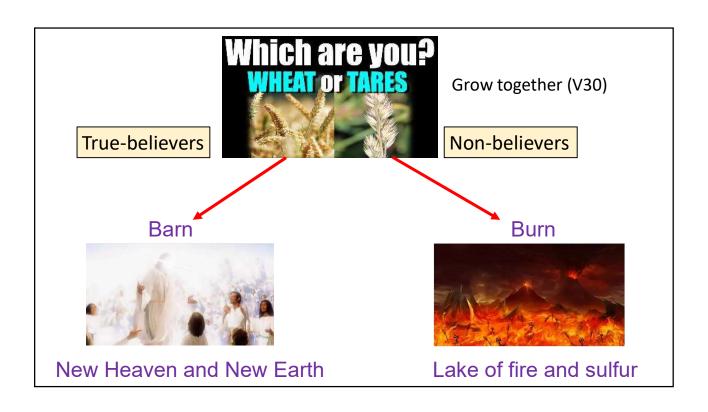


True-believers

Truly believe in Jesus Christ



Involve with the church but never in Christ



²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' (Mat 7:21-23)







Judgment seat of Christ



Great White Throne judgment

For believers
For rewards

For non-believers
For condemnation



Great White Throne judgment

¹¹ Then I saw a **great white throne** and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, **he was thrown into the lake of fire.** (Rev 20:11-15)

For believers



In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (Eph 1:7)

All the believers' sins have been judged on the cross

Judgment seat of Christ

"Bema": To award crowns









Receiving rewards from the Lord

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Cor 5:10)

'phaulon', bad, worthless

¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (1 Cor 3:12-15)



tested by fire





1 Pet 4:5 – Crown of glory



James 1:12 - Crown of life



1 Cor 9:25 – The incorruptible crown





1 The 2:19 – The crown of rejoicing



1 The 2:19 – The crown of righteousness

Attributes of God



Omnipresent
Omnipotent
Omniscient

God is omnipresent

God is All - present

God is not limited by space

Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

- ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

 If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.(Eph 3:19)







God is everywhere at the same time, all the time

he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Rev 14:10)



God's wrath of fury is present in hell for the punishment of all unrepentant sinners

"Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. (Jer 23:23-24)

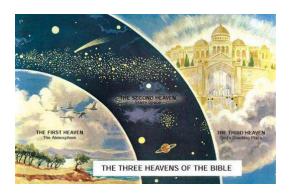


God is beyond this universe

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! (1 King 8:27)



Solomon's temple



so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (Eph 3:17)

Jesus Christ is in us

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.(Rom 8:9)

Holy Spirit is in us

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (John 14:23)

The Father is in us

It is absolutely wrong to think that God is confined to a place, a building or a statue

God is infinite, there is no end to God; no one can find the end to God

God has no limits; there is nothing that constrain God

God's being fill all of endless infinity

God is beyond all creation, time and space



Application 1:

For Believers

It is comforting to know that God is in me. He is always with me. Close to me No matter what I am going through, God is in me, I am not alone.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mat 28:18-20)

The Lord is **at hand**; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, (Phi 4:5,6)

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is **my helper**; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Heb 13:6)

The Lord is close to me and helping me



Application - 2:

The reality of God's omnipresence also means motivation for holiness





¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "**You shall be holy, for I am holy**." (1 Pet 1:14-16)

Application - 3:

For Believers

It is comforting to know that we are eternally secured in Jesus Christ

Our salvation in Jesus Christ will last forever, because Jesus is everlasting

We will never lose our salvation in Jesus Christ because Jesus is faithful

"I will **never** leave you nor forsake you." (Heb 13: 5b)

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one." (John 10:28-30)



We are in Jesus Christ's hand and God the Father's hands, we are eternally kept in God's presence.

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.(John 13:1)



Application

For Non-believers

Your hand will find out all your enemies; your right hand will find out those who hate you.

⁹ You will make them as a blazing oven when you appear.

The LORD will swallow them up in his wrath, and fire will consume them. (Ps 21:8-9)

For an evil man: There is no escape; no way out; no place for him to hide

Application

For Non-believers

"If they dig into Sheol,

from there shall my hand take them;

if they climb up to heaven,

from there I will bring them down.

³ If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I will search them out and take them; and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,

there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.

⁴ And if they go into captivity before their enemies, there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them; and I will fix my eyes upon them

for evil and not for good."(Amos 9:2-4)

'I don't care where you go, I will find you'

Application

For Non-believers

"For his eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps.

²² There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves.(Job 34:21-22)

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Heb 4:13)

God sees all things clearly because God is everywhere

The LORD is a **jealous and avenging God**; the LORD is **avenging and wrathful**; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. (Nah 1:2)

The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it.

⁶ Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. (Nah 1:5-6)



God is omnipotent

God is All – powerful

God is sovereign and has absolute authority

God can do anything He wants

God has no bounds, no limits to His energy

God is omnipotent:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am **God Almighty**; walk before me, and be blameless, (Gen 17:1)

If it is a contest of strength, behold, **he is mighty!**If it is a matter of justice, who can summon him? (Job 9:19)

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns. (Rev 19:6)

God can do anything and everything as easily as He wants

Eg. The universe, human, animals, plants etc all submit to the Lord

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.(Isa 40:28)

God does not need to wind down or rest

Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"(Gen 18:25)



Abraham said

God "is just", so everything that God does "is just"

God is powerful to do anything and everything that God does be consistent with His nature

God's nature



God cannot lie
God cannot sin

God cannot violate His words

God cannot His essence, His nature

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

Whatever that pleases Him

Whatever that gives Him glory

Whatever that is His will

Why did God do this and that?

Why did God didn't do this and that?

Because He wanted to

Because He didn't want to





We cannot understand because we are not 'God' We don't have the mind of God, and we are not His counsellor

The Potter's right

You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (Rom 9:19-21)

No 'clay' can question the 'Potter'

The 'Potter' has all the right



God's Power displayed in:

Creation

By the **word of the Lord** the heavens were made, and by the **breath of his mouth** all their host. (Ps 33:6)

God spoke and creation was done

God is more powerful and greater than anything He ever made



God created without anyone to help Him, no advice needed



Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb:
"I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, (Isa 44:24)



God made something out of nothing

and calls into existence the things that do not exist. (Rom 4:17b)













God's Power displayed in:

Preservation

and he **upholds the universe** by the word of his power. (Heb 1:3)



God doesn't get tired, He needs no rest

God's energy flows to uphold and sustain the universe

God never needs to be replenished, recharged, rest etc

In Gen, God did not rest, He does not need to

God only 'rested' from the work of creation, God continues in the work of 'sustaining' God set the pattern of the Sabbath rest is for us to set this as a day to worship God

The Jews were persecuting Jesus for healing an invalid man

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." (John 5:17)

God's Power displayed in:

Redemption



For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:18)

God's power was displayed on the cross when Jesus redeemed men to Himself

God's Power displayed in:

Resurrection





God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (Acts 2:24)

God's power was displayed when Jesus rose from the dead

God's Power displayed in:

Resurrection



Rapture

One day, God's power will be displayed again when He raised from the dead every human being ever lived, righteous and unrighteous.

Resurrection

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the <u>resurrection of life</u>, and those who have done evil to the <u>resurrection of judgment</u>. (John 5:28-29)





Application 1

For Believers

God is the Creator, even heaven and earth, nothing is too hard for Him to handle

I have infinite help from infinite powerful God

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.(Ps 121:1-2)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phi 4:13)

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (Eph 3:19-20)

God's power is the basis for our daily confidence and trust, especially when I feel inadequate

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is **greater** than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

God's power is the basis for our victory



Application 2

For Believers

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet 1:3-5)

God's power is the basis for our assurance: eternal security God's power is going to keep me stayed saved to the end Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (Rom 8:35)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)



But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.(2 Tim 1:12b)







Application

Non-believers

Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (1 Cor 10:22)

God gets jealous if we do not worship Him.

God is stronger than us and will fight against His rejecters

God will surely win, because He is all-powerful, no one can defend against God

He is wise in heart and mighty in strength

—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—(Job 9:4)

Answer: Nobody.

when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (2 The 1:7b-9)





God is omniscient

God is All - knowing

God has infinite wisdom and knowledge

God does not need to learn anything

There are no surprises with God

God is Omniscient

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is **beyond measure**. (Ps 147:5)

God's knowledge is unrivaled. He has infinite wisdom and understanding

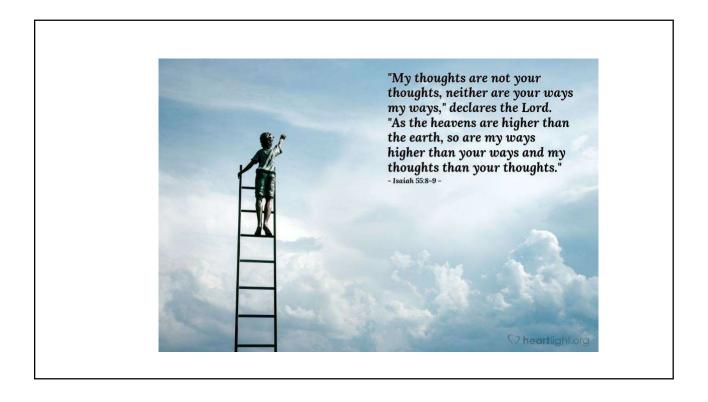
Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?

14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand?

Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? (Isa 40:13-14)

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"(Rom 11:34)

No one can teach or tell God anything that He doesn't know



God is Omniscient

Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. (Luke 12:7a)

God didn't have to count our hair; He intrinsically knows it



God is Omniscient

And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. (Rev 2:23b)

"For I know their works and their thoughts, (Isa 66:18a)

God knows what is inside our minds and in our hearts

God is Omniscient

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.(Ps 139:4)

God knows what we want to say

for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,

10 declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,' (Isa 46:9b-10)





Garden of Eden

New Heaven and New Earth

Jesus is Omniscient

But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for <u>he himself knew what was in man.</u>(John 2:24-25)

Jesus knows our deepest thoughts

Jesus is God

¹² "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev 22:13)



God is infinitely wise

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.(Ps 104:24)









Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only wise**God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim 1:17 KJV)

To **the only wise God our Saviour**, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 25 KJV)

to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (Rom 16:27)

God knows beginning and the end, and everything in between

Beginning

End

God has perfect knowledge and infinite wisdom

God's omniscience acting with a holy will

Application

Believers > Comfort

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. (Mal 3:16-17)

God has a book and He had written down my name long in eternity past. There is absolutely nothing outside the knowledge of God

It is comforting to know that God knows me.
I am not insignificant; I am not forgotten; I am not neglected

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle.

Are they not in your book? (Ps 56:8)

God not only knows me, He knows my tears
God knows every trials that I go through
God cares about me



"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they**?(Mat 6:25-26)

God knows us and value us



²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, **and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all**. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.(Mat 6:27-33)

We are more important than lilies.
God knows our needs and will take care of us



God is Omniscient

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

God knows how sinful and rotten and rebellious we are

Yet God chooses to save us



God displays His great attribute of Infinite Love

Application

Non-believers > everything will be unmasked

For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Eccl 12:14)

God knows everything, so it is useless to pretend or to act out superficially

All hypocrisy will be absolutely unmasked

All hidden sins will be exposed

Application

Non-believers > Hell judgment

For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes. (Jer 16:17)

No hiding from God



Application

Non-believers > Hell judgment

We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. (Rom 2:2)

Those who do not know God, there is the promise of accurate judgment

God will judge according to the truth, and the final judgment will be sending the unrepentant sinners to hell, a just judgment

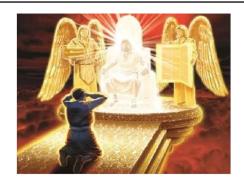


Application

Non-believers > Hell judgment



Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (Rev 20:11-13)



The Lord knows everything

Everything will be exposed, nothing will be hidden

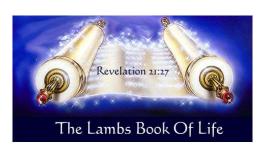
Everyone will have to give an account

No one can hide, no one can be excused

The Lord will judge, according to the truth

Application

Non-believers > Hell judgment





Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.(Rev 20:14-15)





Omnipresent
Omnipotent
Omniscient