

**OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL**  
*Old Union Missionary Baptist Church*  
714 Old Union Church Road  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104



Twenty-Ninth Annual Session - March 28, 29, 30, 2001

**GOD AND HIS ATTRIBUTES**

By Elder H. C. Vanderpool

Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

**ARTICLES OF FAITH**

Article 2: "We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption."

**GOD REVEALED IN NATURE**

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."*  
*Psalm 19:1*

*"The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory." Psalm 97:6*

*"Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:17*

SEE ALSO: Romans 1:18-32

**GALEN** (c. 130-200) An outstanding physician of antiquity, born of Greek parents in Pergamum, Asia Minor, was educated in the medical field in nearby Smyrna. About 161 A.D. he settled in Rome after he had widely traveled.

It is said of him by Arvine:

"When Galen, a celebrated physician, but atheistically inclined, had anatomized the human body, and carefully surveyed the frame of it, viewed the fitness and usefulness of every part of it and the several intentions of every little vein, bone and muscle, and the beauty of the whole, a spirit of devotion came upon him and he wrote a hymn to his Creator. *"A man must be a fool, indeed, who after fully studying his own body can remain an atheist."*

**THE ETERNITY OF GOD**

*"Lord thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psalm 90:1-2*

*"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8*

The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God;*" Psalm 14:1

The fact of God is assumed by the Scriptures without giving any argument to establish or prove it. Therefore, our chief ground of belief in the reality of God is found within the pages of the Bible. The Bible, therefore, is not intended for the atheist, who denies the existence of God, nor the conformed agnostic who denies the possibility of knowing whether there is a God or not. Neither does it have value for the infidel who rejects the revelation of God and hence the God of revelation.

## **THE SPIRITUALITY OF GOD**

"God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24

"God is a Spirit" KJV. The indefinite article is not found in the Greek text, but has been supplied by the translators. D. S. God is spiritual in nature, i.e., in His essential Being God is Spirit.

God as Spirit is incorporeal, invisible, without material substance, without physical parts or passions, and therefore free from all temporal limitations. This truth opposes the false teaching of materialism, that the facts of experience are all to be explained by referring them to the realities, activities and laws of physical or material substance.

From the foregoing, it is seen that God as Spirit is to be apprehended not by the senses of the body, but by the faculties of the soul, quickened and illumined by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 1:15-17).

## **THE TRINITY OF GOD**

The word "Tri-unity" comes from two Latin words "tres" and "unitas" translated into "three" and "unity," which states the doctrine of three in one, or Trinity.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: (Genesis 1:26).

The word "God" is Hebrew "elohim" plural. Hence personal pronouns "us" "our" and "our".

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:23).

Father, Son and Holy Spirit: (Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14)

### **The Trinity Illustrated**

"A sceptic once questioned the possibility of the Trinity. 'Tell me how the candle burns,' asked a believer. 'The tallow, the cotton and the atmospheric air produce the light,' answered the skeptic. 'But they make one light, do they not?' 'Yes,' was the reply of the one convinced."

## **THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD**

The self-existence and eternity of God may be considered arguments for His immutability. As an infinite Being, absolutely independent and eternal, God is above the possibility of change.

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed (Malachi 3:6). References: (Psalm 102:27; Hebrews 1:12; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17).

## **THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD**

The word "omniscience" comes from two Latin words, "omne," signifying all, and "scientia," signifying knowledge. God is a Spirit and as such has knowledge. He is a perfect Spirit and as such has perfect knowledge. Wisdom may be classified under omniscience; it is that whereby God produces the best possible results by the best possible means. Wisdom also seems to include moral principle as well as intellectual capacity, as seen in Job and Proverbs, where it embraces the preminent qualities of an ideal man combining in itself all moral and intellectual excellence. Wisdom is a quality of God's nature and a mode of His activity.

"Like every other attribute of God we have considered, the omniscience of God defies our comprehension. We know very little, and while in this world will probably not turn over the first page of the book of knowledge. How impossible, then, to take in the idea of universal knowledge.." Pendleton

"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (I John 3:20).

"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." (Acts 15:18; See also Isaiah 46:9-10).

## THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

The word "omnipotence" comes from two Latin words "omnis" and "potentia," signifying "all power." By this attribute of God is meant His unlimited power, His power to do whatever He chooses to do. The omnipotence of God is that attribute by which He can bring to pass anything which He wills. God's declaration of His intention is the pledge of its accomplishment.

The word "omnipotent" appears only one time in the entire Bible, which is in Revelation 19:6, "...Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." The Greek word for Omnipotent is "pantokrator" meaning "all-powerful." and is also translated nine times in English "Almighty," as follows: (II Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 16:14; 19:15; 21:22).

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3).

"The universe as we know it is the supreme evidence of God's Omnipotence. In creating, sustaining, and guiding it, God exhibits ability to limit or restrain himself. He chose to make it as it is rather than otherwise. He chose to make man free and leave him so. The universe does not exhaust God. There are always in Him reserves of wisdom and power." - Mullins

Thomas Guthrie once said, "It is as easy for God to supply thy greatest as thy smallest wants, even as it was within His power to form a system or an atom, to create a blazing sun as to kindle the fire-fly's lamp."

D. S. God can do all things - nothing is too hard for Him; all things are possible with Him - God is Omnipotent, (Matthew 19:26).

## THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD

The word "omnipresence" comes from two Latin words "omnis" meaning "all," "praesum" meaning "to be at hand or present." The Scriptures represent God as filling immensity; He is present everywhere and there is no point in the universe where He is not.

"A heathen philosopher once asked a Christian, 'Where is God?' The Christian answered, 'Let me first ask you, Where is He not?'" - Arrowsmith

The Fact of God's Omnipresence: David once asked, "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell (Heb. "sheol" "the unseen state."), behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. (Psalm 139:7-10).

D. S. God is our nearest environment. His center is everywhere; His circumference is nowhere: God is Omnipresent.

*"Lord of all being; throned afar  
Thy glory flames from sun and star;  
Centre and soul of ev'ry sphere  
Yet to each loving heart, how near."*

*"For God is never so far off as even to be near.  
He is within. Our spirit is the home He holds most dear.  
To think of Him as by our side is almost as untrue,  
As to remove His shrine beyond those skies of starry blue,  
So all the while I thought myself, homeless, forlorn and  
weary.  
Missing my joy, I walked the earth, myself God's sanctuary."  
- Faber*

## THE MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### The Holiness of God

The Scriptures declare the holiness of God in loud and solemn tones: "Holy and reverend is His name." (Psalm 111:9c). God's Holiness is His most exalted and emphasized attribute, expressing the majesty of His moral nature and character.

"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of host: the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6:3)

"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy." (Psalm 99:9) "Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God?" (I Samuel 6:20).

### The Righteousness And Justice of God

The Scriptural fact of His righteousness: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works," (Psalm 145:17)

D. S. All of God's requirements of men are absolutely righteous in character.

The Justice of God: "Justice is the execution of righteousness."

The justice of God is the execution of the penalties attached to His laws; this may be called judicial holiness. In this attribute we have revealed His hatred of sin, which, devoid of all passion or caprice, always leads Him to be just, and to demand that which is just.

D. S. God has made practical manifestations of His righteousness and justice in all of His dealings with men, both the just and the unjust.

### The Love of God (including Mercy and Grace).

"God's love is more abundant than the atmosphere. The air reaches out beyond the earth some thirty miles, while the love of God reaches up to heaven itself and fills the universe." - Champion

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us, God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." (I John 4:16).

In the five chapters of First John, there are three key words, "Fellowship," "Know" and "Love."

The attribute of God's Love is revealed in this, one of the key verses of the Bible: "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).

The Mercy of God:

\*\*\*\*\* The mercy of God is that principle and quality which describes His disposition and action in relation to the sinful and suffering, withholding merited penalty and relieving distress. God's mercy is a holy mercy, which knows how to pardon sin, not to protect it; it is a sanctuary for the penitent, not for the presumptuous.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (I Peter 1:3).

The Grace of God:

\*\*\*\*\*

The apostle Paul said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (I Corinthians 15:10).

Grace always means two things, God's favor and God's gift; the attitude and the action of God; the attitude of God as expressed in His action.