



“A Do It Yourself!”

***Guided Study
of***

***G*od**

***Presented by
The Discipleship Ministry***

God

"A Do It Yourself"
Guided Study

The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to help fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to
"Make Disciples of All Nations" !

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"A Do It Yourself Guided Study of God"

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“A Do It Yourself Guide”

Purpose:

This **Guided Study** was developed to help Christians learn Scriptural Principles and Truths directly from the Word. Based on the Bible Study Method, each lesson guides the student through the steps of Observation, Interpretation and Application. The end result for the student is a more thorough knowledge of Scripture. Another important consequence is the personal application of God's Word to specific areas of the student's life resulting in spiritual growth.

Use:

The **Guided Study** is best used in a Group setting. Being part of a Study Group not only helps our motivation to continue in the Word, but also guards us from erroneous Interpretations. Group members help guard one another from incorrect and unsound interpretations by evaluating each other's interpretations in light of established Hermeneutical Principles and Biblical Truths.

Group members may choose either to complete the lessons ahead of time and discuss their answers together, or do the lessons together when they meet. Be sure to have a good study Bible and reference materials available which ever method you choose to follow!

Preparation:

Before beginning this Guided Study, familiarize yourself with the **Bible Study Method and Principles for Biblical Interpretation** by completing **Discipleship Study 3** available at www.BibleStudyCD.com. For further study, read:

“**The Joy of Discovery**” by Olletta Wald

“**Protestant Biblical Interpretation**” by Bernard Ramm

Doing It Yourself

PRAY that God will guide you to His Truth and keep you from error! In a continuing attitude of prayer and dependence upon God, print a copy of an entire *Guided Study Lesson*, and begin.

Text

The Bible passages are from the **New American Standard Bible** (1995 updated edition) because it is one of the most accurate modern English translations available. The text is reprinted as a **structural diagram** to facilitate the discovery of key words and phrases, and their relationships to each other.

Observation

To discover what the Bible **Says**, read the Bible text several times and **mark** specific key words and/or phrases to highlight what you observe. (Read pages 7-11 in Discipleship Study 3) Suggested observations are provided for you to mark in the text. However, *how* you “**mark**” the text is up to you. Consider the following ways John 3:16 has been marked below:

“For God so loved the world
 that He gave His only begotten Son,
 that whoever believes in Him
 [should not] (perish)
 but have everlasting life.”

Colored Highlighters
 Underline
 Circles and Boxes
 Brackets or Parenthesis
 Arrows

Interpretation

Questions help us discover what the author originally Meant when he wrote the text. They reveal the meaning, significance and implications of key words or phrases. It will be necessary to access other resources, including a Bible dictionary, commentaries and a Bible handbook to discover the meaning of words as well as gain a better understanding of the history, geography and culture that impact the meaning of a passage. (see pages 12-18 in Discipleship Study 3)

Principles & Truths

An indispensable skill in Bible Study is the ability to discern Biblical Principles in Scripture that transcend time, place and culture. By discovering these Principles, Scripture is then stated as spiritual, moral and ethical truths by which we should live. (see page 21 in Discipleship Study 3)

Example: Principles from John 3:16

1. God loves every person in the world.
2. God's Love is expressed in the giving of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ has everlasting life.
4. Whoever does not believe in Jesus Christ will perish.

Applications

The purpose for Bible Study is not just to be informed, but to be transformed by the Word. After discovering what the passage Says and Means, we must discover what the passage Means to Us. (See pages 19-20 in Discipleship Study 3)

In this section, review what you discovered in your Observations and Interpretations, as well as the Principles you developed. From these, use the acronym SPACE to determine the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| S ins | Are there any Sins I need to personally Confess to God? |
| P romises | Are there any Promises of God I can personally claim for my life? |
| A ttitudes/Actions | Are there any Attitudes or Actions I need to adopt or avoid? |
| C ommands | Are there any Commands of God I need to Obey? |
| E xamples | Are there any Examples for me to follow? |

List these applications and prayerfully apply each one. Continually meditate on the Truths and Principles you discerned from the Passage in order to transform your mind, your heart and your will, until your life is conformed to God's "good, acceptable and perfect will"!

Example: Applications from John 3:16.

1. Believe God loves me!
2. Believe in God's Son, Whom God gave to me, that I might have Everlasting Life.
3. Share God's Love and Promise of Everlasting Life to Everyone in the World, that they might believe and not Perish, but have Everlasting Life!

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An Introduction to a Study of God

We are about to embark on an exciting journey. Our destination? A greater knowledge of the Almighty! If knowledge is power, then can there be anything more powerful than the knowledge of Almighty God? This kind of knowledge changes lives! I promise you that after you have completed this study, you will not be the same. You *cannot* be the same! For God's Word will have its impact on you, transforming you by Its Truths and strengthening your faith as It increases your vision of God. The bigger your God, the bigger your faith in God!

There can be no more profitable use of your time than the study of God, for there is no more important a subject. Our source of Truth will be the Holy Scripture, for in It God has revealed Himself in a manner surpassed only by the Living Word, Jesus Christ. That God exists is unquestionable, for Scripture does not attempt to prove His existence but assumes it in the very first verse ... "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Enough can be learned about God through an observation of His creation such that God Himself will hold every person accountable on the basis of that 'General Revelation' alone. Observe the testimony of Scripture.

"For since the creation of the world
(God's) invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature
have been clearly seen,
being understood through what has been made,
so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

Even as an agnostic undergraduate zoology student, I could not help but be in awe at the complexity of living systems; from the intricate simplicity of the DNA molecule, to the unfathomable beauty of embryonic development, to the mystery of life itself. How did life originate? Could it really have happened by chance? Such questions, by necessity, led me beyond the empirical to the spiritual, and my quest for answers drew me to the Creator. Nature reveals only a sketch of the Creator. Holy Scripture paints the brilliant details of His Being!

Prepare yourself for this study by yielding your *mind* to the Holy Spirit, for His Truths are spiritual and only those who study in Spirit will perceive them clearly. Then yield your *heart* and *will* to the Truths of God's Word so that you may be transformed and sanctified by them.

May God bless you richly as He opens your eyes to a fresh vision of His Being!

For further study, the following books are recommended:

'Knowledge of the Holy' by A.W.. Tozer
'The Attributes of God' by Arthur Pink
'Knowing God' by J.I. Packer
'The Holiness of God' by R.C. Sproul

The Eternal God

Intro: When did God come into being? What is His origin? These questions are addressed in the following verses dealing with the Eternal God.

Genesis 21:33

33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Exodus 3:13-14

13 Then Moses said to God,
"Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them,
'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.'
Now they may say to me,
'What is His name?'
What shall I say to them?"

14 God said to Moses,
"I AM WHO I AM";
and He said,
"Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel,
'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- How God is described in Genesis.
- What God told Moses His name was. Exodus 3:13-14
- Who, Moses was told to tell the Israelites, sent him.
Exodus 3:14

Interpretation:

Genesis 21:33 What does this verse teach about God? _____

Exodus 3:13-14 What does God's name ('I Am Who I Am') mean? _____

What is its significance? _____

Research the Hebrew word 'Yahweh' (Jehovah) which is God's name. What does it mean and why is it significant?

Note:

The word 'everlasting' means 'for ever, always, continuous existence, perpetual, indefinite or unending future, eternity'

Note:

The english word LORD is used to translate the hebrew 'YHWH' , also written as 'Yahweh', 'Yehowah' or 'Jehovah'. The Jews considered God's personal name so sacred that only the priest was allowed to speak it and only on the Day of Atonement when he entered the Holy of Holies. Thus, whenever they came to God's name in the text of Scripture, they replaced it with the hebrew word 'Adonai' which translates to 'Lord' in the english. The english translators have continued that tradition by using LORD in place of YHWH, using the upper case to distinguish it from the hebrew word 'adonai' which is translated as 'Lord'.

The Eternal God (cont)

Psalm 41:13

Blessed be the LORD,
the God of Israel,
From everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen.

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were born
Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting,
You are God.

Psalm 93:2

Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.

Psalm 102:12

But You, O LORD,
abide forever,
And Your name to all generations.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How God's existence is described in each passage.

Interpretation

What does the phrase 'From everlasting to everlasting' mean? _____

What is the significance of One who exists 'from everlasting to everlasting'?

How would you explain a Being who exists 'from everlasting to everlasting'?

How would God view time in comparison to how we do? _____

Note:

The existence of God is a great mystery. Scripture does not even attempt to explain God's existence but simply assumes it. Hebrews 11:6 says God is pleased with the faith that simply 'believes that He is'.

From our perspective, God always was and always will be. From God's perspective, He simply Is! Thus His Name ... I Am! He is the eternal, everlasting God without beginning or end! It is encouraging that the same word used to describe God as 'everlasting' is also used to describe the new life we inherit through faith in Christ Jesus! But it is sobering that it is also used to describe the punishment of the unbeliever!

Because God is eternal, He views time at once from beginning to end. Picture a circle with a beginning and an end. We live on that circle of time. God is at a point in the center, able to view our entire lives at once! That is why He sees us, not only as we are, but also as we will be!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's existence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The answer to the question, "When was God created?" , is 'Never!'. God always was, is and will be. A more accurate statement is that 'God Is!' He is not a part of, influenced by or in any way limited by time. As in the circle illustration above, God is separate from time as we know it. If you can imagine your life on that circle, you can only be certain of what has been (what lies behind you) and what is (where you are at present). The future, however, is a mystery for everyone on that circle of time. God, however, sees the entire circle at once. He is able to see our entire lives in an instant, as we were, are and will be. Such is the Eternal God we worship!

God is Eternal
From everlasting to everlasting!

The Unity of God

Intro: Is there one God or are there many? Though the world's religions may vary in their answers, the Scriptures are clear.

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel!
The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!

John 17:3

"This is eternal life,
that they may know You,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ
whom You have sent.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God,
and one mediator also
between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How God is described. Deuteronomy 6:4
- How God is described. John 17:3
- How God is described. 1 Timothy 2:5

Interpretation:

Deuteronomy 6:4 What does this verse teach about God? _____

In light of the historical context (The Israelites have emerged from Egypt after 400 years there and are now heading toward the land God promised to their forefather, Abraham) why is this verse significant?

John 17:3 What is significant about how Jesus describes God? _____

1 Timothy 2:5 In light of the Gentile culture in Paul's time, what is significant about his description of God?

Note:

'one' = the number 1 or that which is first

Besides the obvious meaning, that the LORD God is one God, some believe the verse also implies that the LORD, alone, is their God.

Note:

For 400 years, Israel lived among the Egyptian people whose religion incorporated belief in numerous gods. Each town had their own deity, and they believed every phenomenon of nature was indwelt by a spirit.

Note:

Jesus specified the 'only true God'. In that one statement, He eliminated the possibility of another.

Note:

The Roman religion held to polytheism (multiple deities), many of whom were adopted from the Greek culture. (see Acts 14:11-13 & 17:22-24)

The Unity of God (cont)

Isaiah 43:10b

Before Me
there was no God formed,
And there will be none
after Me.

Isaiah 44:6

"Thus says the LORD,
the King of Israel
And his Redeemer,
the LORD of hosts:
'I am the first and I am the last,
And there is no God besides Me.

2 Samuel 7:22

"For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD;
for there is none like You,
and there is no God besides You,
according to all that we have heard
with our ears.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- How many gods existed before God. Isaiah 43:10b
- How many gods there will be after God. Isaiah 43:10b
- How many gods there are besides God. Isaiah 44:6
- How many gods are like God. 2 Samuels 7:22

Interpretation:

Isaiah 43:10b There are certain religions or cults that teach we either are gods or will one day become gods. How does this verse refute them?

Isaiah 44:6 What point is God making by His statement? _____

2 Samuel 7:22 Who made this statement _____

What is its significance in light of its context? _____

Why is it important to know and acknowledge that God is the One and Only God?

Note:

In this section of Isaiah, the prophet is being shown events concerning Israel's Babylonian captivity that are still centuries in the future. The basis for God's promise of Israel's survival from that captivity is God's assurance that He is the only true God, and that there are no other gods prior to Him nor will there be after Him!

Note:

Compare this statement by God with Revelation 1:8 & 22:12-13, 16. If the LORD God claims to be the 'first and the last' in Isaiah and the 'Alpha and the Omega' in Revelation 1, and if Jesus claims to be both in Revelation 22, then Jesus must be the LORD God as well!

Note:

David, in awe of God's promise to extend his throne for ever, rightly proclaims of God that 'there is none like You ... and ... no God besides You'.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Unity?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

Most of us would deny belief in other gods besides the 'one true God' taught in Scripture. But is our worship really pure? Jesus spoke of people who make 'mammon' (money or possessions) their god(s). Have we fallen into that trap? It is very easy to make things, or even other people, the source of our security, significance or self-esteem, and the focus of our love and devotion. If so, they are at best false gods, for there is only one true God... and no other!

God is One
He Alone is God!

The Self-Existence of God

Intro: The effect of God being both One and Eternal is Self-Existence. God exists in and of Himself alone.

Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the LORD,
your Redeemer,
and the one who formed you from the womb,
"I, the LORD,
am the maker of all things,
Stretching out the heavens
by Myself
And spreading out the earth
all alone,

Acts 17:

24 "The God who made the world and all things in it,
since He is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not dwell in temples made with hands;
25 nor is He served by human hands,
as though He needed anything,
since He Himself gives to all *people*
life and breath and all things;

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What God did in Isaiah 44:24.
- How He says He did it.
- Why God does not need to be served. Acts 17:25

Interpretation:

Isaiah 44:24 What does this verse teach about God? _____

What does this verse say to the proabortionists and evolutionists ?

Acts 17:24-25 What does the phrase 'as though He needed anything' imply?

How does the truth of verse 24 explain why God needs nothing to exist?

How would you define the Self-Existence of God? _____

Note:
John 1:1-3, 14 teaches that Jesus created all things. When compared with Isaiah 44:24, can there be any doubt that Scripture teaches that Jesus is the LORD God who created the Universe by Himself? There is no other interpretation when trying to assimilate these two passages at once.

Note:
In light of this verse, it is clear that the abortion and evolution issues are really spiritual in nature, and require prayer and God's power to be resolved. Until people understand the divine origins of life and nature, they will never see the true deception of the theory of evolution and the pro abortion stance. It is not freedom to think or do what you want that sets you free, but Truth.

The Self-Existence of God (cont)

Roman 11

- 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both
of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments
and unfathomable His ways!
- 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD,
OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?
- 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM
THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?
- 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him
are all things.
To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How God's 'judgments' and 'ways' are described.
- The source of 'all things'.

Interpretation:

Romans 11:33-36 What point is Paul making about God's 'judgments' and 'ways'?

What point is Paul making about God in verses 34 & 35? _____

What point is Paul making about 'all things' in verse 36? _____

How does this verse teach that God is self-existing and not caused by anything? _____

Note:

This passage comes at the conclusion of Paul's exposition of two of Scripture's most difficult and, often times, contentious teachings: God's Sovereignty and the Free Will of man. Paul expounds both positions to the point of seeming contradiction. Perhaps this is why, almost in relief, he breaks into this soaring benediction, and, under divine inspiration, extolls the supremacy and mysteries of God and the truth that all things inevitably comes 'from ... through ... and to' Him! God, alone, ultimately determines 'all things'.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Self-Existence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:
Did God create us because He needed our love, or the universe because He needed to be amused? *Absolutely not!* God needed nothing to add to His Being! He is absolutely self existing and self sufficient, in need of no thing or no one to be complete. Our existence, and the existence of all things, is only and ultimately for His own good pleasure, and nothing else!

God Alone is Self Existing & Self Sufficient

All Things Exist By and For Him!

The Nature of God ~ Spirit

Intro: In Psalm 50:21, God rebukes man by saying 'you thought I was like you'. God is not like us! But if not, what is He like? The following lessons deal with the Nature of God.

John 4:24

"God is spirit,
and those who worship Him
must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King
eternal,
immortal,
invisible,
the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What God is described as. John 4:24
- How one must worship Him as a result. John 4:24
- How God is described. 1 Timothy 1:17

Interpretation:

John 4:24 What does Jesus mean when He says, 'God is spirit'? _____

What is significant about how God is described? _____

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? _____

In light of these verses, why must we worship God in this way? _____

1 Timothy 1:17 What is significant about how this verse describes God? _____

Note:

The word 'spirit' (pneuma - grk) means the breath of our nostrils or mouth, or wind. It is used to describe the Holy Spirit, man's immaterial soul as well as angels or demons.

The references to God having physical attributes are anthropomorphism's, which use the visible to explain the invisible.

Note:

Eternal = for ever, perpetual, without end
Immortal = imperishable, indestructible, not subject to decay.
Invisible = that which cannot be seen.

Much of our worship occurs through our physical being (ie. what we do or say). But according to Jesus, God looks for worship that occurs in our inner being. We may fool the people around us with our actions or words, but God looks at the truth of our hearts.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Nature?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

We began in the intro with a quote from Psalm 50:21 in which God chides us by saying, 'You thought I was like you'. A proper understanding of God begins with the assumption that God is not like us! The cliché referring to God as 'the man upstairs' is unscriptural at best and blasphemous at worst. 'God is not a man!' His ways are not our ways. God is an eternal spirit, and as such, transcends infinitely the limitations that mark us as physical and mortal beings.

God is Spirit

He is the Eternal, Immortal & Invisible God !

The Nature of God ~ Holy

Intro: God is Holy. It is that part of His nature which sets Him apart from His creation. It is the quality which distinguishes Him from all else!

Isaiah 6

- 1 In the year of King Uzziah's death
I saw the Lord sitting on a throne,
lofty and exalted,
with the train of His robe filling the temple.
- 2 Seraphim stood above Him,
each having six wings:
with two he covered his face, and
with two he covered his feet, and
with two he flew.
- 3 And one called out to another and said,
"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory."
- 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled
at the voice of him who called out,
while the temple was filling with smoke.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What Isaiah observed God doing. Isaiah 6:1
- How God is described. Isaiah 6:3

Interpretation:

verse 1 What is significant about Isaiah's vision of God? _____

verse 2 What are 'seraphim' and what is significant about their postures? _____

verse 3 What does the word 'holy' mean? _____

What is the significance of it being repeated? _____

What does the phrase 'the whole earth is full of His glory' mean and what is its significance? _____

Note:

Read about the life of Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26: (a great moral story that teaches the secret to success and failure). Think what impact the way Uzziah ended his life might have had on Isaiah?

Note:

Read the parallel passage in Revelation 4:6-8 for a more detailed description of the seraphim.

Note:

The repetition of words is done to add emphasis. Jesus often added emphasis by repeating the word 'Truly'. 'Holy', is thrice repeated here to add emphasis to the superlative.

Some have questioned whether Isaiah could have seen God since He is described as invisible and unseeable (1 Timothy 1:17; John 1:18) John 12:41, however, tells us that what Isaiah saw was "Jesus' glory". Think what that says about Christ!

The Nature of God ~ Holy (cont.)

Leviticus 10:10

You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean,

Leviticus 20:26

You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What they were to distinguish between. Lev 10:10
- Why the Israelites were called to be holy. Lev 20:26
- Why God set them apart. Lev 20:26
- How God is described. 1 John 1:5

Interpretation:

Leviticus 10:10 Read Leviticus 10:1-9. What significance does the context bring to

this verse? _____

What does this reveal about God? _____

Leviticus 20:26 What is significant about the reason God calls us to be holy? _____

1 John 1:5 What does the word 'Light' imply when used to describe God? _____

What does 'in Him there is no darkness at all' mean? _____

How would you describe the Holiness of God? _____

Note:

The context of Leviticus 10:10 enhances the significance of what is 'holy' or 'clean' and 'common' or 'unclean' in verse 10. Put yourself in Aaron's place as he receives this instruction from God through Moses. The task is elevated beyond the academic to life and death ... literally!

Note:

Set in a context forbidding the worship of alien gods and practices, this passage declares why Israel must be holy. They were to reflect the nature of their God to the nations around them.

Note:

John tells us that the description of God found in this verse was given him by Jesus Himself, who sought to teach His disciples what it meant to have fellowship with God. This fellowship depends on a willingness to live in the light of God's Holiness.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Holiness?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Holiness of God is that quality of God which describes the perfection of His purity, glory and beauty. It is a perfection that permeates all of His attributes and works. It is what separates God from all else and elevates Him preeminently above His creation. From everlasting to everlasting there is none like Him. God's holiness is the standard by which all things sacred are measured and sanctioned, and the basis for moral and ethical excellence. It's beauty causes the believer to worship God, and brings the sinner to his knees.

God is Holy

He Transcends His creation in Purity, Glory and Beauty!

The Nature of God ~ Love

Intro: The ultimate example of God's Love is His devotion to His chosen. God's Love is demonstrated in the keeping of His covenant no matter the cost to Himself!

Deuteronomy 4:37

"Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power,

Deuteronomy 7:

7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,
8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- Why God chose the people of Israel. (Deut 4:37)
- Why God loved Israel. (Deut 7:7-8)
- How God demonstrated His love. (Deut 7:8)

Interpretation:

Deuteronomy 4:37 What does this verse say about God's love?

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 What is Moses' point in verse 7? _____

What does this say about God's Love? _____

How is the keeping of an oath an expression of love? _____

Describe the Love of God as expressed in these verses: _____

Note:

The concept of God's love, faithfulness and mercy is usually expressed by the word 'lovingkindness' which is translated from the Hebrew word 'hesed'. In the Old Testament, the idea of God's lovingkindness is linked to His covenant with His chosen people. God bestows His lovingkindness upon them because He has made an oath/covenant to do so. The withholding of His lovingkindness results from their failure to keep their commitment to the covenant.

In a similar way, God's Love reaches it's highest expression through His New Covenant with those who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son. God Loves us by faithfully keeping His oath to us even when we falter.

The Nature of God ~ Love (cont)

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying,
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore
I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

Joel 2:13

And rend your heart and not your garments.
" Now return to the LORD your God,
For He is gracious and compassionate,
Slow to anger,
abounding in lovingkindness
And relenting of evil.

Micah 7:18

Who is a God like You,
who pardons iniquity
And passes over the rebellious act
of the remnant of His possession?
He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in unchanging love.

Intro: Many view the God in the Old Testament as angry and vengeful. But these OT passages reveal another aspect of His Nature ... His Lovingkindness.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- God's attitude toward Israel. (Jeremiah 31:3)
- How God is described. (Joel 2:13)
- What God does. (Micah 7:18)

Interpretation:

Jeremiah 31:3 What does 'everlasting love' imply? _____

Why do you think God draws us with His 'lovingkindness' and not fear? _____

Joel 2:13 Read the entire book of Joel (only three chapters!). How does this verse contrast with what is happening in the book? _____

What is significant about who will experience God's lovingkindness? _____

Micah 7:18 Read the subsequent context of this passage. How will God demonstrate His love toward His people? _____

Note:

God's Love, as is His Being, is 'everlasting'. Despite Israel's many escapades of spiritual 'adultery' with other gods and idols, there has been the one constant of God's lovingkindness. No matter how many times God's chosen turned away from Him, His love has always been there when they repented and returned.

That is the reason for Micah's exclamation, 'Who is a God like You...?' God's love is saturated with mercy, and receives any who truly repents from the heart.

As noted in the intro above, many see an incongruity between the God of the Old Testament and His Son in the New Testament. But when the point of comparison is God's Love, the two images merge into one and the same!

The Nature of God ~ Love (cont)

Intro: There are three definitive statements made about God. He is Spirit, Light and Love. And there is no greater expression of His Love than the sacrifice of His Only Son for a sinful and rebellious race.

1 John 4

- 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What God is. (1 John 4:8)
- Whom God loved. (John 3:16)
- When God loved. (Romans 5:8)
- How God loved (1 John 4:8; John 3:16 & Romans 5:8)

Interpretation:

1 John 4:8-9 What does 'God is Love' mean? _____

Why is loving others an indication one knows God? _____

John 3:16 Jesus spoke these words to Nicodemus, an interested Pharisee steeped in Jewish laws and traditions. What significance does this bring to this verse?

Romans 5:8 What does the timing of God's Love reveal about it? _____

Why is every reference to God's love linked to the giving of His Son? _____

Note:

The word 'Love' has been painted with many shades of meaning through the generations, some very lofty and others very carnal. The Greeks avoided this problem by developing at least four words that are all translated into the English word 'love'.

The word the NT writers used to express God's love is 'agape'. Though it is not uniquely used of God (see 1 John 2:15), it has come to exemplify God's attitude toward mankind in general, and toward those who choose to receive it by faith, specifically.

Agape is not a wishy-washy, feel good, self-serving love, but a solid commitment to sacrifice all for the good of the object of that love. It is a love that values, not debases.

If Love is measured by what one is willing to give up for another, then the ultimate must always be God's Love for us!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Love*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

Though we stand in awe at a distance at the beauty of God's Holiness, it is His Love that draws us near. God chose to love us, not because of any perfection in our being, for we had none, but because He is Love. He could not help it! Though His Perfect Holiness separated Him from us, His Love compelled Him to become one of us to die on our behalf. Truly, He is God, for there is none other who is like Him!

God is Love

Who willingly gave His Only Begotten Son for me!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty

Intro: The Sovereignty of God is at once the grandest and most contentious attribute of God. At issue is the point at which God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will meet. We will yield to the testimony of Scripture on this issue.

Deuteronomy 4:39

"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

1Chronicles 29:

- 11 "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.
- 12 "Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, and their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- Where God is God (Deuteronomy 4:39).
- Over whom God is exalted as head. (1 Chron 29:11)
- Over whom God rules. (1 Chron 29:12)

Interpretation:

Deuteronomy 4:39 What does it mean that the LORD is God 'on the earth' and 'no other'? _____

What is the significance of this truth? _____

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 What does it mean that God is both 'head over all' and rules 'over all'? _____

Why does it say that in God's hand is the 'power and might ... to make great'? _____

What is the primary point of this passage by King David? _____

Note:

The book of Deuteronomy comprises Moses' final instructions to the Israelites prior to their entrance into the Promised Land. Understand that they have just spent 40 years wandering the 'wilderness' and living among nations with many gods.

Note:

The God of Scripture is 'hands on'. He is not the aloof deity of the Deists who creates the world and then allows it to follow its own course.

In this hymn of praise, King David acknowledges God's involvement in various situations that befall man. He does so knowing that God has anointed his son Solomon, and not him, to build the Temple.

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Psalm 50

- 10 "For every beast of the forest is Mine,
The cattle on a thousand hills.
11 "I know every bird of the mountains,
And everything that moves in the field is Mine.
12 "If I were hungry I would not tell you,
For the world is Mine, and all it contains.

Ps 103:19

The LORD has established His throne
in the heavens,
And His sovereignty
rules over all.

Ps 135:6

Whatever the LORD pleases,
He does,
In heaven and in earth,
in the seas and in all deeps.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text. Examine its **context**.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What belongs to God. (Psalm 50)
- What rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)
- What the LORD does. (Psalm 135:6)

Interpretation:

Psalm 50: What is the significance about the truths in this passage? _____

Psalm 103:19 What does 'His sovereignty rules over all' mean? _____

What is its significance? _____

Psalm 135:6 What is the point of this verse? _____

Note:

The Psalmist affirms that all things belong to God, acknowledging His right to do with them as He pleases.

Note:

The word sovereignty means supreme authority to rule. Though there may be monarchs and government leaders among us, their authority is only an extension of the One who possesses all authority.

Note:

Would you like it if you were able to realize everything that pleases you? Of course, then you would be like God. He alone does whatever He pleases!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Psalm 139:16

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.

Isaiah 14:

24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying,
"Surely, just as I have intended
so it has happened,
and just as I have planned so it will stand,
27 "For the LORD of hosts has planned,
and who can frustrate it?
And as for His stretched-out hand,
who can turn it back?"

Isa 46:10

Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times
things which have not been done, Saying,
'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What was written in God's book. (Psalm 139:16)
- When they were written (Psalm 139:16)
- What has happened and what will stand. (Isaiah 14:)
- What God will accomplish. (Isaiah 46:10)

Interpretation:

Psalm 139:16 What is the significance of all our days being prewritten in

God's book? _____

Isaiah 14: What does this verse teach about God's sovereignty? _____

What is its significance? _____

Isaiah 46:10 What is God saying about His sovereign rule? _____

Note:

God not only knows every day we will ever live, but does so because He has ordained, or predetermined, each one.

Note:

We have all been frustrated by failed plans or unfulfilled intentions. Not so God. The only appropriate comment for God is that everything is going according as He Plan.

Note:

Have you ever wondered how God knows what will happen? It is *not* simply that He knows the future, but that He has *determined* everything in it!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Acts 4:28

to do whatever Your hand
and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Ephesians 1:11

also we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined
according to His purpose
who works all things
after the counsel of His will,

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things
to work together for good
to those who love God,
to those who are called
according to His purpose.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How God's purpose occurred. (Acts 4:28)
- What God works 'after the counsel of (God's) will'. (Ephesians 1:11)
- What God causes to work together for good. (Romans 8:28)

Interpretation:

Acts 4:28 Read the preceding verse to this one. In light of the context, what does

this verse say about the crucifixion of Christ? _____

Ephesians 1:11 What does this verse say about our salvation? _____

What is its significance? _____

Romans 8:28 What does this verse say about God's sovereignty? _____

What is its significance? _____

Note:

The context of this verse indicates that Christ's crucifixion was not an unintended event out of our Lord's hands, but a divinely choreographed script in which every participant played a part to fulfill God's purpose.

Note:

Long before we were even conceived, God had already planned our salvation. By His mysterious purpose He predestined us to believe in His Son and inherit eternal life! Our salvation did not happen by chance, but was part of our destiny because of God's choice!

Note:

The Believer must never ask, 'Why?', knowing that God sovereignly works all things for our good. The details may be blurred, but not the final outcome ... to become more like His Son!

The Attributes of God ~ His Sovereignty (cont)

Romans 9

- 13 Just as it is written,
"JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."
- 14 What shall we say then?
There is no injustice with God, is there?
May it never be!
- 15 For He says to Moses,
"I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY,
AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION
ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."
- 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills
or the man who runs,
but on God who has mercy.
- 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh,
"FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP,
TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU,
AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED
THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."
- 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires,
and He hardens whom He desires.
- 19 You will say to me then,
"Why does He still find fault?
For who resists His will?"
- 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man,
who answers back to God?
The thing molded will not say to the molder,
"Why did you make me like this," will it?
- 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay,
to make from the same lump
one vessel for honorable use
and another for common use?

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text. Examine its context.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What God's mercy does not depend on. (verse 16)
- Why God raised up Pharaoh. (verse 17)
- On whom God shows mercy or hardens. (verse 18)
- What the potter (God) has over the clay. (verse 21)

Interpretation:

verses 13-18 What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty? _____

What does this passage teach about man's free will? _____

verse 19 What is the answer to the second question? _____

What do these questions imply? _____

verses 20-21 How would you explain the response to the questions in verse 19? _____

Define God's Sovereignty: _____

Note:

In the course of three incredible chapters (9-11), Paul boldly addresses the issue of God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will as they relate to the Believer's salvation. His conclusion? Both are involved!

In his great treatise to God's salvation, Paul weaves both truths through the divine plan. Our free will secures our salvation, but God's Sovereignty assures its security. The Sovereignty of God removes man's works from the equation and places our salvation completely in the 'hands' of God! Can you think of a better place for it?

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Sovereignty*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

Scripture reveals God as the Supreme Ruler and Authority of all that occurs throughout His Realm and Creation. Far from disturbing, this doctrine is comforting, for it removes our destinies from the hands of sinful men and places them under the control of the Eternal and Loving God! For those who know God, His Sovereignty is a source of Peace and Protection from Fear, knowing that the God, who is Love, is also always in control.

God is Sovereign
Accomplishing All That Pleases Him!

The Attributes of God ~ His Righteousness

Intro: The Righteousness of God is an attribute closely related to His Holiness. It specifically speaks of God's perfect conformity to His Law ... not that He is subject to that standard for God IS the standard! As the standard, God is the perfect Judge of the just and the unjust, and the punisher of all evil.

Deuteronomy 32:

- 3 "For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!
4 "The Rock!
His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.

Psalms 72:2

He will judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How God's work & ways are described. Deut 32:4
- How God is described. Deut 32:4
- How God will judge. Psalm 72:2

Interpretation:

Deuteronomy 32:4 Paraphrase this verse in your own words. _____

What if God was not righteous and just. What affect would that have?

What affect does the righteousness of God have on us? _____

Psalms 72:24 What does it mean when it says God will judge 'in righteousness' and 'with justice'? _____

What gives God the right to Judge? _____

Note:

In his final words to Israel, Moses proclaims the righteousness of God, in the perfection of His work and the justness of His ways. The Israelites are about to enter the land promised them by God. In preparation, God has warned Moses that they will forsake Him and break the covenant He made with them by worshipping other gods. So these words of Moses are designed to lay the foundation for the judgments of God that are sure to come. The cornerstone of that foundation is the righteousness of God.

Note:

God will judge us. Make no mistake about that. But in His judgments, God will always be just. It is impossible for Him not to be, for God cannot help but be just.
Because God is righteous, He alone has the right to judge, for His judgments are always perfect and just.

The Attributes of God ~ His Righteousness (Cont)

Romans 1:

- 17 For in (the gospel)
the righteousness of God is revealed
from faith to faith;
as it is written,
"BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man
SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness
of men
who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness
and unrepentant heart
you are storing up wrath for yourself
in the day of wrath
and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Note and mark

- What is revealed in the gospel. Romans 1:17
- What is revealed from heaven. Romans 1:18
- What will be revealed in the day of wrath. Romans 2:5

Interpretation:

Romans 1:17-18 How does the gospel reveal the righteousness of God?

Why is 'the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness'?

How do men 'suppress the truth in unrighteousness? _____

How does verse 18 relate to verse 17? _____

Romans 2:5 How does this verse relate to 1:17-18? _____

Note:

Few of us think about the Righteousness of God when we consider the Gospel message, but God's Righteousness is both the problem that necessitated the Gospel and the solution provided for by It.

Romans 1:18 & 2:5 outline sinful man's destiny without Christ ... God's wrath and His righteous judgment. That's bad news.

God's response was to send His Son to live a perfectly righteous life in order that He might become an acceptable sacrifice for sin.

God forgives the sins done by all who believe in Jesus, and credits them with His righteousness that they did not do. That's the good news!

Note:

Picture this verse in your mind. Can you imagine the vat that is storing up the increasing amount of wrath God has for people's sins? What more do we need to motivate us to share Christ with others!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Righteousness?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:
The Righteousness of God is that perfection by which God is both the Standard and Judge of righteousness. It is that attribute which ought to fill us with the fear of God, and the motivation to keep us from anything that would cause His displeasure. Though the world tries to diminish and even eliminate this aspect of God, it is this aspect to which we will all have to give an account. Every person will be measured against God's perfect Righteousness. And only those who have repented of their sin, received God's forgiveness in Christ and been credited with the righteousness of Jesus, will be able to measure up to God's perfect standard!

God is Righteous
He will judge the living and the dead!

The Attributes of God ~ His Grace

Intro: The Grace of God is His eternal, free and sovereign favor bestowed, unsought and unconditionally, on the undeserving. Through it, God renders His love and salvation to His chosen.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:

- 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;*
9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- When Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- By what we have been saved. Eph 2:8
- What our salvation is not of. Eph 2:8
- What our salvation is. Eph 2:8
- What our salvation is not a result of. Eph 2:9
- Why our salvation is by grace. Eph 2:8

Interpretation:

Romans 5:8 What is significant about the phrase, 'while we were yet sinners'?

How does this demonstrate the grace of God? _____

Ephesians 2:8-9 Read Ephesians 2:1-3. In light of this context, why does this

passage say our salvation is by 'grace'? _____

What is the significance of verse 9? _____

From this passage, how would you describe the grace of God? _____

Note:

The word translated 'grace' (charis) means unmerited favor. The grace of God is His gift to those chosen according to His pleasure. It is based on His sovereign right to elect those He predestines to salvation in Christ. It is given with no respect to who the recipients are or what they have done. There is nothing anyone can do to earn, deserve or in any way merit the grace of God.

God's Grace is to be distinguished from God's Mercy which is bestowed on all people equally.

Note:

Apart from the grace of God, there would absolutely be no way we could ever be saved. Of all the great religions, Christianity alone admits man's total inability to live a life that measures up to God's righteous standard. Salvation is a gift of God's grace, offered to those without merit and received by a faith which itself is a gift from God!

The Attributes of God ~ His Grace (cont)

Isaiah 53:

- 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.
- 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.
- 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why?
Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What He bore. Isaiah 53:4
- What He carried. Isaiah 53:4
- For what He was pierced through. Isaiah 53:5
- For what He was crushed. Isaiah 53:5
- Where each of us has turned. Isaiah 53:6
- What God caused to fall on Him. Isaiah 53:6

Interpretation:

Isaiah 53:4-6 Who is the 'He' in these verses? (Provide support for your answer)

What does verse 5 describe? _____

What does 'by His scourgings we are healed' mean? _____

How does this passage demonstrate the Grace of God? _____

Note:

Isaiah 53 is one of many Messianic passages prophesying the coming of God's anointed. Unlike most of them, it portrays Messiah, not as a triumphant King, but as a suffering Servant who would take the sins of the world upon Himself as God's chosen sacrifice.

Jews read this passage believing that the 'He' referred to them and their sufferings through the ages. But the specific descriptions of the manner of Christ's death (verse 5) clearly points to the death of Jesus on the cross and His sacrifice as the Lamb of God. That this prophecy was given 700 years before Jesus was born makes it all the more amazing!

But mainly, this passage expresses the incredible price God was willing to pay for us, and becomes a vivid picture of His Grace toward us!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Grace*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The *Grace* of God is that attribute which will only be experienced by His elect. It reaches its fullest expression in the gift of God's Only Begotten Son to those who are not only completely undeserving, but who, by nature, are enemies of God and objects of His wrath. That God offered His Son as a sacrifice for sinners demonstrates unquestionably that God is a God of Grace.

God is Gracious
He gives freely to the undeserving!

The Attributes of God ~ His Mercy

Intro: God's Mercy is His Patient Kindness whereby He withholds judgment and bestows blessings on sinners.

Psalm 145

- 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
9 The LORD is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.

Matthew 5:45

so that you may be sons of your Father
who is in heaven;
for He causes His sun to rise on *the evil and the good*,
and sends rain on *the righteous and the unrighteous*.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why?
Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- How the LORD is described. Psalm 145:8-9
- Where God's mercies are. Psalm 145:9
- On whom God causes the sun to rise. Matthew 5:45
- On whom God sends the rain. Matthew 5:45

Interpretation:

Psalm 145:8-9 This is a song of praise written by King David. What significance

does David bring to the Psalm? _____

How is God's mercies 'over all His works'? _____

Matthew 5:45 How does this verse illustrate God's mercy? _____

Look up Matthew 5:44. From this context, what is the basis for God's mercy?

Note:

David is a man who knows the mercy of God. In 2 Samuel 11, he yields to temptation and commits adultery with Bathsheba, the beautiful wife of one of his top soldiers, and then has that soldier, Uriah the Hittite, killed in battle to hide that sin. David must have wondered if God would rescind His promise to him (2 Sam 7) because of this sin, but God forgives David and maintains His covenant with him, making David's words much more insightful.

Note:

Have you ever wondered why good things happen to bad people? Why evil people succeed? In short, the answer is God's mercy. During this era, God's mercy extends to everyone, both the righteous and the unrighteous. But when Jesus returns, mercy ends, and judgment is come.

The Attributes of God ~ His Mercy (cont)

Genesis 18:32

Then he said,
"Oh may the Lord not be angry,
and I shall speak only this once;
suppose ten are found there?"
And He said,
"I will not destroy *it* on account of the ten."

Psalms 51:1

For the choir director. A Psalm of David,
when Nathan the prophet came to him,
after he had gone in to Bathsheba.
Be gracious to me, O God,
according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion
blot out my transgressions.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- On account of how many (righteous) God did not destroy (Sodom & Gomorrah). *Genesis 18:32*
- According to what David asked God to be gracious.
- According to what David asks God for forgiveness.

Psalm 51:1

Interpretation:

Genesis 18:32 Why do you think God was willing to spare Sodom on account of only ten righteous people? _____

What significance might this have for us today? _____

Psalms 51:1 What had David done to cause him to write this Psalm? _____

What do the following mean?

'gracious': _____

'lovingkindness': _____

'compassion': _____

What is their significance here? _____

Note:

When you read this account in *Genesis 18:32-33*, you cannot help but be amazed both at Abraham's bargaining boldness and God's mercy. That God was willing to spare an extremely immoral society for the sake of a few righteous people reveals Him as merciful. Unfortunately for the Sodomites, even ten could not be found.

Note:

The three words which David incorporates in his plea for forgiveness are all different synonyms of the word 'mercy', and rightly so. For when one comes before the Holy God under conviction of sin, it is His mercy, not His grace, that one appeals to.

It has been said that grace is God giving to us what we do not deserve while mercy is God not giving to us what we *do* deserve. While the sinner deserves punishment, Mercy withholds that judgment.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Mercy*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Mercy of God restrains His Righteous Judgment and gives the undeserving the opportunity to respond to His Grace. Were it not for God's Mercy, we would all have been destroyed in Adam the moment he sinned. But God's mercy toward the unrighteous is *not* without end, for there will come a time when sin's consequence will be required and all who are without God's Grace in Christ will pay the just recompense, the everlasting punishment which God's Mercy withheld until the right time.

God is Merciful
He is patient toward the sinner!

The Attributes of God ~ His Veracity

Intro: The Veracity of God is His absolute conformity to Truth. It is the reason we can trust all that He is and all that He says. In Him there is no darkness or deception!

1 Samuel 15:29

"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

Ps 119:142, 151 & 160

Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
And Your law is truth.
You are near, O LORD,
And all Your commandments are truth.
The sum of Your word is truth,
And every one of Your righteous ordinances
is everlasting.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why?
Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What (God) will not do. 1 Samuel 15:29
- What is truth. Psalm 119:142, 151 & 160

Interpretation:

1 Samuel 15:29 What is the significance about what is said of 'man'? _____

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-31. What is the significance of verse 29 in light of the context? _____

Psalm 119: What does the word 'truth' mean? _____

How is this significant to God's 'law', 'commandments' and 'word'? _____

Why is it important for our faith that God's word be found true? _____

Note:

Both this verse and its parallel, Numbers 23:19, imply that God, unlike man, does not lie or change His mind, but keeps His word and does what He promises to do.

Though God's Veracity is most often seen as a positive attribute, it can spell bad news for those who defy God as 1 Samuel 15 demonstrates.

Note:

Just as God is True, so His Word is Truth. The word 'true' describes what is 'sure, reliable and faithful'. As the Believer is called to trust God and His Word, the Veracity of God is the basis of our faith in Him.

Can you imagine if God were unreliable? If His Word was not trustworthy? How would you ever be able to believe Him?

But because God is Truth and His Word is True, our faith will never be in vain. We can be sure that what God has promised He will do, and that what He says, is.

The Attributes of God ~ His Veracity (cont)

Exodus 34:6

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed,
"The LORD, the LORD God,
compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth;
your word is truth.

John 14:6

Jesus *said to him,
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What the LORD God is abounding in. Exodus 34:6
- By what they are to be sanctified. John 17:17
- What Jesus claimed to be. John 14:6

Interpretation:

Exodus 34:6 Read Exodus chapter 34: What is happening in this chapter? _____

How is God, proclaiming Himself as abounding in truth, significant to the context? _____

John 17:17 What does 'sanctify them by the truth' mean? _____

John 14:6 How is Jesus 'the truth'? _____

How does this relate to our coming to the Father only through Jesus? _____

Note:

Our God is not a shrinking violet. He will not hesitate to speak out when it comes to His Person or accomplishments, for when He proclaims who He is, it is not bragging but fact!

Here, He proclaims Himself as the 'LORD God ... abounding in ... truth'. Truth saturates His very Being! And to our benefit! For when He establishes a covenant with us, as He is doing here with Israel, we can be absolutely certain that it will not be broken from His side!

Note:

The word 'sanctify' comes from the same word as 'holy' in the NT and means to be pure or separated from the profane. In a world inundated by deceit and deception, a life lived in strict conformity to God and His Word will be a life sanctified.

The primary example of this is Jesus who is Truth, for He never strayed for a moment from God's way!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Veracity?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Veracity of God is His guarantee that our faith will never be in vain. God will never deceive, defraud or distort, for He cannot, by His very nature, lie. We can be absolutely certain that He is as He claims to be, and will do what He promises to. Truth is part of His very substance, and though we may resort to lies and deceit, He never ever will.

*God is Truth
In Him there is No Deception!*

The Attributes of God ~ His Immutability

Intro: The Immutability of God is His capacity to remain the same. God is eternally unchanging in His Being, Attributes and Purpose.

1 Samuel 15:29

"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD,
the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.

Malachi 3:6

"For I, the LORD, do not change;
therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- Why (God) will not change His mind. 1 Samuel 15:29
- What God does not become. Isaiah 40:28
- What God does not do. Malachi 3:6

Interpretation:

1 Samuel 15:29 Why does God not have to change His mind? _____

How does this passage present man in comparison to God? _____

Isaiah 40:28 Read Isaiah chapter 40. In light of the context, what is the point of this verse? _____

What is significant about God not becoming weary or tired? _____

Malachi 3:6 What is the meaning of this verse in light of its context? _____

Note:

All of us change our minds from time to time. But what would it take to always make the right decision ... to never ever have to change our minds?

It would take the ability to know and control everything around us ... abilities only God possesses.

Note:

In chapter 40, Isaiah prophesies about Israel's salvation fulfilled in the coming of the LORD to Jerusalem. It is filled with verses declaring the supremacy and power of God, underscoring His ability to fulfill His promise to save His people.

To give emphasis to God's abilities, He is said to 'never become weary or tired'. In effect, God does not change, but is ever able to do what He says He will!

Note:

Malachi is prophesying to post exilic Israelis who are beginning to think that God has abandoned His covenant with them. Verse 6 is God's rebuke to that kind of thinking.

The Attributes of God ~ His Immutability (cont)

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Romans 11:29

for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- How the 'Father of lights' is described. James 1:17
- When Jesus is the 'same'. Hebrews 13:8
- What the gifts and calling of God are. Romans 11:29

Interpretation:

James 1:17 What does 'variation or shifting shadow' mean? _____

Why does James describe God in this way here? _____

Hebrews 13:8 What is the point here in light of the context? _____

Romans 11:29 What is the significance of this verse in light of its context? _____

How is our salvation dependent on God's immutability? _____

Note:

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon, or a majestic scene lit brilliantly by the sun? And then watched the scenery change as the sun moved across the sky, varying the angle of the light? That is what this verse is speaking about.

God is *not* like the changing scenery whose appearance varies by the 'shifting shadow'. He is constant, unchanging and forever the same.

Note:

The assurance of God's Grace lies in His Immutable nature. To the Hebrew readers who contemplated leaving their new found Christian faith to return to their historical Jewish faith, the writer reminds them of the immutability of Christ. The effect of Jesus' sacrifice is eternal.

In the same way, God's call and promise to save Israel is also unchanging, and will one day be realized.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Immutability?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Immutability of God is a comfort to believers, for it assures their salvation. But it is a source of discomfort for unbelievers, for it assures their condemnation and punishment. God will not alter His Word or Purpose. You will never have to wonder if He will revise, reverse or refashion His declared will, for He never changes ... ever.

*God is Immutable
He Does Not Change!*

The Attributes of God ~ His Patience

Intro: The Patience of God is His Forbearance toward sinners. He endures the ways of the wicked.

Exodus 34:6

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed,
"The LORD, the LORD God,
compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger,
and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

1 Peter 3:20

who once were disobedient,
when the patience of God kept waiting
in the days of Noah,
during the construction of the ark,
in which a few, that is, eight persons,
were brought safely through the water.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What the LORD God is. Exodus 34:6
- What God did during the construction of the ark. 1 Peter 3:20

Interpretation:

Exodus 34:6 What is significant about how God describes Himself in light

of the context of this verse? _____

1 Peter 3:20 How long did God wait while Noah built the ark (Genesis 6:3)?

What message did the emerging ark present? _____

Why did so few people take advantage of God's patience and heed God's warning? _____

Note:

The context of Exodus 34:6 is the reconfirmation of the Covenant after Israel incurred God's wrath by building an idol in Moses' initial absence. God's Patience is relevant only in the context of our sinfulness, for it is the withholding of His justified wrath that defines His patience.

Note:

Many scholars believe the 120 years mentioned in Genesis 6:3 refers to the number of years God allowed mankind to repent before sending the flood. Besides the generous time allowed by God, there was the emerging ark that gave witness of the impending judgment. This, coupled with the testimony of Noah as God's righteous prophet, gave the sinning population ample warning. That only 8 people were saved is an indication of the sinful state of mankind at that time.

The Attributes of God ~ His Patience (cont)

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise,
as some count slowness,
but is patient toward you,
not wishing for any to perish
but for all to come to repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness
and tolerance and patience,
not knowing that the kindness of God
leads you to repentance?

Revelation 2:21

'I gave her time to repent,
and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What the Lord is toward 'you'. 2 Peter 3:9
- What leads you to repentance. Romans 2:4
- What (God's Son) gave her. Revelation 2:21

Interpretation:

2 Peter 3:9 What 'promise' is this verse speaking about (see context)? _____

How is the situation Peter is writing about still relevant today? (verses 3-4)

Romans 2:4 From 2 Peter 3:9 and this verse, why is God being patient? _____

Revelation 2:21 Why doesn't 'she' repent? _____

Note:

2 Peter 3:9 speaks of the promised return of Christ and the subsequent judgment of all people. Peter was responding to the 'scoffers' who were ridiculing those who held to the promise of God, explaining that the delay was an indication of God's patience, not His non-existence.

The theory of evolution has become the mantra of scoffers today who deceive themselves into thinking that science has disproved God's existence.

Note:

The apostles Paul and Peter both acknowledge that God is being patient to allow time for people to repent. The two millennia since Christ's first coming simply underscores the long-suffering of God toward creatures who do not repent because they don't want to.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Patience?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Patience of God is best demonstrated by the withholding of His wrath toward those deserving of it. For the sole reason of allowing them time is to respond to His Mercy and offer of Grace in the gift of His Son for the forgiveness of their sins. However, God's patience, though 'long-suffering', is not *forever* suffering. There will be an end to His Mercy and a time of reckoning for all who refuse His gift and scorn His patience.

God is Patient

He tolerates sinners and endures their wicked ways!

The Attributes of God ~ His Omnipresence

Intro: God is Present Everywhere at once.

Psalm 139:

- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I go up to the heavens,
you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths,
you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

Jeremiah 23:24

Can anyone hide in secret places
so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD.
"Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why?
Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- Where *God* is. Psalm 139:8-9
- Where *God* fills. Jeremiah 23:24

Interpretation:

Psalm 139 What is the answer to the Psalmist's questions in verse 7?

What is the Psalmist's point in verse 8? _____

Where is the 'dawn' and 'far side of the sea' for the Psalmist? _____

What is his conclusion in verse 10? _____

Jeremiah 23:24 What is the answer to God's first question? _____

What is the answer to God's second question? _____

What point is God making about Himself in this verse? _____

Note:

David masterfully uses the allegorical language of poetry to convey spiritual truths. He introduces the subject of God's presence with two rhetorical questions, both answerable by the same response 'no where'.

He then conveys the truth of God's omnipresence by referring to the ultimate height (the heavens) and depth in verse 8, and the farthest easterly (dawn) and westerly points (the other side of the Mediterranean Sea) from his perspective.

In essence, God is present everywhere to guide and keep him.

Note:

The context of this verse is God's rebuke of false prophets who have misled Israel. He ominously assures them that they will not be able to hide from Him for He fills 'heaven and earth'!

This verse conveys the terrifying aspect to God's Omnipresence.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Omnipresence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Omnipresence of God is both reassuring and terrifying. For the faithful, it is a comforting truth in times of peril and need. But for the disobedient, God's Presence is a terrifying thought, for there is no where to run and no where to hide from God's omnipresent gaze.

*God is Omnipresent
He is present everywhere at once!*

The Attributes of God ~ His Omniscience

Intro: God knows all things, actual and possible, at once.

Psalm 139:

- 1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
- 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, You know it all.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel,
"Do not look at his appearance
or at the height of his stature,
because I have rejected him;
for God sees not as man sees,
for man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart."

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What God knows or understands. Psalm 139:1-4
- What God is intimately acquainted with. Psalm 139:3
- Where the LORD looks. 1 Samuel 16:7

Interpretation:

Psalm 139 Describe the extent of God's knowledge. _____

How might David have come to this realization of God? _____

1 Samuel 16:7 What does 'the LORD looks at the heart' mean? _____

What is the significance of this? _____

Note:

David is aware of the full knowledge of God from his dealings with Nathan the prophet. It was Nathan who pointed God's finger at David when he sinned with Bathsheba announcing, 'You are the man!'

(2 Samuel 12:1-7)

Truly, David was able to say of God, 'You are 'intimately acquainted with all my ways'.

Note:

God knows what is in our hearts. The heart contains our reflections, inclinations, emotions and passions. We may be able to hide these private activities from the prying eyes of men, but they are laid bare to the penetrating gaze of God. He alone knows who we really are, even better than we do ourselves!

The Attributes of God ~ His Omniscience (cont)

Job 37:16

"Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds,
The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,

Isaiah 46:10 a

Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times
things which have not been done,

Matthew 11:21

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!
For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon
which occurred in you,
they would have repented long ago
in sackcloth and ashes.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What God is 'in knowledge'. Job 37:16
- What God declares. Isaiah 46:10
- What Tyre and Sidon would have done. Matthew 11:21

Interpretation:

Job 37:16 What does it mean to be 'perfect in knowledge'? _____

Isaiah 46:10a What is this verse saying about God? _____

What is the significance of this? _____

Matthew 11:21 What is Jesus saying about Chorazin and Bethsaida? _____

What does this indicate about what He knows? _____

Note:

God's knowledge is complete, unblemished and without error. Such is the perfection of His understanding. Being such, He needs neither counsel nor enlightenment.

Note:

The knowledge of the Eternal God is eternal. He is fully acquainted with every detail of every thing from the very beginning to the very end, and this all at once.

Having such knowledge, He is able to declare what has not been done yet to the very end of time, and perceive things not as they are, but as they will be.

Note:

The knowledge of God includes not only what is but what might have been. It is beyond our comprehension to fathom that God knows all that is, but completely mind numbing that God knows all that could be as well!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about *God's Omniscience*?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Omniscience of God includes every detail of every thing actual and possible. Nothing escapes His Omnipresent gaze in all of heaven and earth, both that which is visible and invisible in the physical or spiritual realms. Being such in perfection, there is nothing God can learn or gain from any thing or any one, nor any thing which can be hidden from Him.

*God is Omniscient
He knows all things at once!*

The Attributes of God ~ His Omnipotence

Intro: God is all powerful, able to do all He pleases.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning
God created the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer,
and the one who formed you from the womb,
"I, the LORD, am the maker of all things,
Stretching out the heavens by Myself
And spreading out the earth all alone,

Genesis 18:14 a

Is anything too hard for the LORD?

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why?
Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What God created. *Genesis 1:1*
- How God created the heavens and earth. *Isaiah 44:24*

Interpretation:

Genesis 1:1 Read Genesis chapter 1. How did God create the heavens and the

earth? _____

How does God's manner of creation illustrate His Omnipotence? _____

Isaiah 44:24 Why does God emphasize His sole involvement in the creation?

Genesis 18:14a What is the answer to this question? _____

What is the significance of this verse? _____

Note:

It is the primary question of the ages. 'Where did everything come from?'

Scripture wastes no time in answering it. God created everything! And He did it simply by speaking everything into existence! The heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

That He created it all by Himself from nothing with merely the effort of a spoken word is a demonstration of the immeasurable power of God.

Note:

What makes this question more incredible than it already is, is that it is in the rhetorical form. That it is asked sardonically by the LORD Himself infuses it with greater emphasis.

The question seems to imply, 'How can you even think of anything too difficult for Me. I'm God!'

The Attributes of God ~ His Omnipotence (cont)

Matthew 19:26

Jesus looked at them and said,
"With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible."

Luke 1:37

For nothing is impossible with God."

Acts 26:8

Why should any of you consider it incredible
that God raises the dead?

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What is possible with God. Matthew 19:26
- What is impossible with God. Luke 1:37
- What God is able to raise. Acts 26:8

Interpretation:

Matthew 19:26 What 'things' was Jesus speaking of in light of the context?

What does this say about God? _____

Luke 1:37 Why does Gabriel make this statement? _____

What is the significance of this statement? _____

Acts 26:8 What is the point of this question? _____

Note:

The specific thing in question here was the salvation of sinful men. Jesus here does the bad news - good news routine by first illustrating how difficult it is for sinners to save themselves ...an impossible feat according to Christ. But the good news is that 'all things are possible' with God! Praise God!

Note:

Can you think of anything more impossible than a woman bearing a son without being impregnated, naturally or artificially? Neither could Mary. Hence the pronouncement by Gabriel attesting to God's ability to do the miraculous!

Note:

This question is part of Paul's testimony before King Agrippa. Look at it carefully to appreciate its simple boldness, for it states the obvious.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Omnipotence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Omnipotence of God is the application of His Sovereignty! God is able to do as He pleases because He has the Power to do so! And He does so simply by decree. Such is His Power!

*God is Omnipotent
Nothing is impossible with Him!*

The Attributes of God ~ His Benevolence

Intro: God is Benevolent and rewards those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jeremiah 29:11

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What *God is*. Hebrews 11:6
- What will be added to you. Matthew 6:33
- What kind of plans God has. Jeremiah 29:11

Interpretation:

Hebrews 11:6 Why does the writer mention God as a 'rewarder of those who seek

Him? _____

Matthew 6:33 From the context, what are the 'things' mentioned here? _____

From Hebrews 11:6 and this verse, why does God give rewards? _____

Jeremiah 29:11 Who is the 'you' mentioned in this verse? _____

From the context, why does the LORD assure them of His plan for them?

Note:

In this definitive verse on faith, it is significant that it teaches you cannot please God unless you believe that He rewards those who seek Him! The numerous testimonies in the chapter reinforces the importance of this truth.

Note:

Jesus sought to separate man from his pursuit of earthly rewards in order to focus on eternal pursuits. His use of rewards helped to motivate this realignment of man's priorities, for He knew that ultimately, we tend to do what benefits us!

Note:

The promise in Jeremiah 29:11 is given specifically to the Israelites who had been taken to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. God wanted to assure them that He still had them on His mind and in His heart. The motive behind this promise was for them to seek Him!

The Attributes of God ~ His Benevolence (cont)

1 Corinthians 3

13 each man's work will become evident;
for the day will show it
because it is to be revealed with fire,
and the fire itself will test the quality
of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains,
he will receive a reward.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear
before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may be recompensed
for his deeds in the body,
according to what he has done,
whether good or bad.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What a person may receive. 1 Corinthians 3:14
- Why we must appear before Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Interpretation:

1 Corinthians 3:13-14 From the context, what will determine the 'quality' of 'each

man's works? _____

From 1 Corinthians 3:15, what relationship do 'rewards' have to our our

salvation? _____

2 Corinthians 5:10 What is the purpose of this judgment? _____

What does the giving of rewards tell us about God? _____

Note:

Paul sought to encourage the Corinthian Christians with the warning that it does matter how they lived their lives. A day of reckoning was in their future and God will reward them for what they did, or did not do, in this life.

As the poem wisely teaches: 'Only one life will soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last!'

But mercifully, the rewards have nothing to do with our eternal salvation. As Paul puts it, the man without rewards will still be saved, but singed.

Note:

Too few Christians are concerned with the judgment seat of Christ where He will either reward, or deny us according to the good and bad we did in our earthly bodies. We do well to pay attention, because clearly, rewards are important to God!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Benevolence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Benevolence of God is the display of His goodness toward those who love and diligently seek Him. God will reward the faithful! This, in itself, demonstrates the high value God places on the life lived in pursuit of God's Kingdom and Righteousness. In the end, the only thing that will matter is all that we do in devotion to God. If this is true, and it is, then why do we do otherwise?

God is Benevolent!
He rewards our faithfulness to Him!

The Attributes of God ~ His Wrath

Intro: God's Wrath is the ultimate expression of His Righteousness toward the unrighteous. It is the only other option to God's Salvation.

Nahum 1:6

Who can stand before His indignation?
Who can endure the burning of His anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire
And the rocks are broken up by Him.

Deuteronomy 32

39 'See now that I, I am He,
And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded and it is I who heal,
And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.
40 'Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven,
And say, as I live forever,
41 If I sharpen My flashing sword,
And My hand takes hold on justice,
I will render vengeance on My adversaries,
And I will repay those who hate Me.

Interpretation:

Nahum 1:6 Read Nahum 1:1-6. Why does Nahum introduce his book in this way?

What is the point of this passage regarding God's wrath? _____

Deuteronomy 32 According to this passage, who executes God's vengeance?

What do these passages reveal about God? _____

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What God's wrath is likened to. Nahum 1:6
- What God will render on His adversaries. Deuteronomy 32

Note:

Nahum was God's prophet of doom to the Assyrians and their capital, Ninevah, pronouncing God's impending judgment for their idolatry and wickedness. They had avoided God's judgment years before when Jonah called them to repentance, but this time, God's wrath would be 'poured out like fire', and God's vengeance realized.

Note:

This passage is from a song Moses recited to Israel to warn them that God was a stern 'Father' who would not tolerate unfaithfulness from His children nor attacks from His enemies. Both would be met with His wrath, make no mistake about that. You can count on Him!

The Attributes of God ~ His Wrath (cont)

Hebrew 10:

- 30 For we know Him who said,
"VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY."
And again,
"THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."
31 It is a terrifying thing
to fall into the hands of the living God.

Romans 1

- 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes,
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed
from faith to faith; as it is written,
"BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men
who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What it is to fall into the 'hands of the living God'.
Hebrews 10
- Against what the wrath of God is revealed. Romans 1

Interpretation:

Hebrews 10:30-31 Read Hebrews 10:26-29. Against whom will God's vengeance fall?

What is the point of this passage? _____

Romans 1:16-18 What is the significance of verse 18 in light of the context?

How is the wrath of God 'revealed from heaven'? _____

Note:

God, here, declares that He will take vengeance on those who reject His grace. Vengeance is His and His alone! That makes His judgment guaranteed for the wicked.

No one can conceive what God's wrath will be like, but the writer's succinct description is most memorable. It will be 'a terrifying thing to fall into the the hands of the living God' who is filled with wrath toward you!

Note:

Immediately following Paul's definitive statement concerning the gospel, he abruptly inserts the topic of God's wrath. It is well placed, for God's wrath is the reason for His gospel. Faith in Christ credits the unrighteous with His righteousness so that they will never have to experience God's wrath!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Wrath?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

God's Wrath is His righteous response toward all unrighteousness. It will be terrifying for the wicked. On the day of judgment no one will be able to escape, endure or stand. For God's vengeance is assured to all who have not exchanged their unrighteousness with the righteousness of God through faith in Christ.

*Vengeance is God's!
He will punish the evil doer!*

Knowing God

If you have acknowledged yourself as a sinner before God, believe Jesus is Lord, that He died for your sins, and that God raised Him from the dead, you have been reborn as a child of God, credited with the righteousness of Christ and infused with eternal life in Him. But have you ever wondered why God would save you for eternity? Consider the following:

Eternal Life is about ...

- living forever and ever.
- taking an eternal vacation in heaven.
- singing praises to God for ever.
- I really don't care as long as I'm there!

Here is what Jesus says concerning Eternal Life.

"This is eternal life,
that they may know You,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ
whom You have sent.
John 17:3

- ❖ Underline what 'eternal life' is.
- ❖ Circle who 'You' is.

The reason God endows you with Eternal Life is to know Him and His Son, Jesus Christ! Mankind has been seeking the reason for his existence from his earliest beginnings, and the answer is simple ... to know and acknowledge his Creator. This is what God says through His prophet Jeremiah.

What is significant about what Jesus said eternal life is? _____

Thus says the LORD,
"Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom,
and let not the mighty man boast of his might,
let not a rich man boast of his riches;
but let him who boasts boast of this,
that he understands and knows Me,
that I am the LORD who exercises
lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth;
for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.
Jeremiah 9:23-24

- ❖ Circle the one thing the one who boasts ought to boast about.

How does this passage reveal how important it is for us to know God? _____

But how does one come to know God? We will consider the various means God has revealed Himself to us, starting with the general and concluding with the specific.

1. We Can Know God Through His Creation

God has revealed Himself through His handiwork.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
Psalm 19:1-3

- ❖ Circle what the heavens are telling.
- ❖ Circle what is revealed 'day to day' and night to night'.

How do the heavens tell of God's glory? _____

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;
What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?
Psalm 8:3-4

Isaiah also writes about how the heavens lead us to a knowledge of God.

Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who leads forth their host by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.
Isaiah 40:26

Why do some sense a Creator when they view the stars while others do not?

The psalmist, King David, acknowledged that the universe is testifying of God, though not in words or speech. When one looks up the stars, one cannot help but be awed at the immensity of the universe and the insignificance of man in comparison.

In comparison to God's created Universe, man seems insignificant. One has to wonder why God is personally involved in mankind. David addresses this in Psalm 8:3-4, acknowledging the greatness of God's creation but hints at his (David's) wonderment at God's concern.

The prophet is declaring the supreme preeminence of God as the only true God who is not an idol fashioned by human hands, but is in fact the Creator of heaven and earth. His existence is evidenced by the starry host which He sustains by His mighty power.

*For since the creation of the world
His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature,
have been clearly seen,
being understood through what has been made,
so that they are without excuse.*

Romans 1:20

The evidence of God is so clear in His creation, that men will be held accountable for its testimony of the Almighty.

- ❖ Circle each quality about God that are seen in the creation.
- ❖ Circle how they have been seen.
- ❖ Circle what those who see God's creation are without.

How are God's 'invisible attributes', 'eternal power' and 'divine nature' seen in His creation? _____

An observation of creation reveals much about the Creator, just as an examination of an automobile can teach us much about its designer and builder. But there is a limit to what can be learned about the Creator in this manner. Theologians speak of creation as God's General Revelation. It is God's witness to all people concerning His existence. It's testimony concerning God is sufficient to hold every person responsible, so that every one will be 'without excuse' when they are judged for failing to believe in the Creator.

But if creation provides only a general witness of the Creator, where can we find more detail about Him? Here, we must go to what Theologians label God's Special Revelation. The next two sections will deal with two special and specific ways God has revealed Himself to us.

2. We Can Know God Through His Written Word

Scripture reveals God in greater detail than His creation can. In Scripture, we learn how God brought all things into existence, what happened when Man sinned and God's plan of salvation to restore Man and creation. We also learn more about God's nature and Person. It would be impossible to learn these things by simply observing the world around us. It took a Special Revelation of God through His chosen prophets to reveal this information. Notice how Jesus used Scripture to explain the significance of His life, death and resurrection.

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets,
He (Jesus) explained to them the things concerning Himself
in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:27

In Acts 8:26-35, the evangelist Philip used Scripture from Isaiah to enlighten an Ethiopian eunuch about Jesus. As you have already discovered if you completed the lessons in this Guided Study, much can be learned about God in His written Word.

But that's just it. You can learn about God through His creation and written Word, but you cannot really come to know Him in a personal way ... as you can another person. For that reason, God revealed Himself in another special way when He took upon Himself human form and lived among us. The Word became incarnated in a living Person, Jesus Christ!

3. We Can Know God Through the Living Word!

1 In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into being through Him,
and apart from Him nothing came into being
that has come into being.
14 And the Word became flesh,
and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory,
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth.
18 No one has seen God at any time;
the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has explained Him.

John 1:1-3, 14, 18

One of the most incredible truths is this one taught in John chapter one. That God became a man and lived among us. It is the basis of the Christmas celebration, but more, it is God's supreme effort to manifest Himself to us.

The greek word translated 'explained' in verse 18 is transliterated in our word 'exegesis'. It means to 'reveal or declare'. Jesus, the Living Word, exegetes, or reveals, who God is. Therefore, if you want to know what God is like, take a good look at Christ. And if you what to know God in a personal way, get to know Jesus!

- ❖ Circle where and who the Word was.
- ❖ Circle what came into being through the Word.
- ❖ Circle what did not come into being apart from the Word.
- ❖ Circle what the Word became.
- ❖ Underline what the 'only begotten' did.

How does the gospel writer make it clear in this passage that the Word is God?

How does John identify Jesus in this passage? _____

Jesus identified Himself as Deity in the following passage. Study it carefully.

7 "If you had known Me,
you would have known My Father also;
from now on you know Him,
and have seen Him."
8 Philip *said to Him,
"Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."
9 Jesus *said to him,
"Have I been so long with you,
and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?
He who has seen Me has seen the Father;
how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
John 14:7-9

- ❖ Circle who Jesus says they would know if they knew Him.
- ❖ Underline what Jesus said the disciples had done. (verse 7)
- ❖ Underline whom they had seen if they had seen Jesus. (verse 9)

What do you think Jesus meant when He said about the Father, 'from now

on you ... have seen Him.'? _____

What is Jesus' point in verse 9? _____

Other New Testament writers confirm Jesus' identity:

(Jesus) is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in Him
all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
Colossians 1:15; 2:9
And (Jesus) is the radiance of (God's) glory
and the exact representation of His nature,
and upholds all things by the word of His power.
Hebrews 1:3a

- ❖ Underline who Jesus is according to the above passages.

How do the above verses confirm Jesus as God? _____

A careful examination of this text reveals an incredible truth. Jesus first makes an amazing statement in verse 7. He says that His disciples, on the basis of their coming to know Him, have not only come to know the Father but have 'seen Him' as well!

Jesus' statement is then followed by a question from Philip, a question that has often been ridiculed. But I'm glad Jesus' disciples weren't the sharpest people in the world, because they force Jesus to clarify His teachings and remove all doubt as to their meaning.

But I want you to carefully examine Jesus' answer, introduced seemingly with a sigh but having the weight of a knock out punch. Remember, Jesus is responding to Philip's request that they be shown the Father. By responding with the personal pronouns 'I' and 'Me', Jesus is making His follow up statement emphatic. 'He who has seen Me has seen the Father'. Can it be any clearer than that? By using the personal pronouns, Jesus is saying when you see Him you are actually seeing the Father Himself! As Jesus says immediately following this passage, He and the Father are One, explaining His exasperated question "how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

In John 1:18, we were told that 'no one has seen God at any time'. Now, Jesus is telling His disciples that through their relationship with him, they have 'seen' God cloaked in human form.

4. We Can Know God by a Life of Faith

As **children of God**, we have the privilege and opportunity to know God through our relationship with him and His personal involvement in our lives. Paul reveals how this personal knowledge of God is obtained, and how it grows.

For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*,
we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask
that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
to please *Him* in all respects,
bearing fruit in every good work
and increasing in the knowledge of God;
Colossians 1:9-10

- ❖ Underline what Paul prayed for the Colossians to be filled with.
- ❖ Underline specifically why he prayed for this.
- ❖ Circle how they were to please God.
- ❖ Circle what they would bear.
- ❖ Underline what they would then increase in.

What does it mean to be 'filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and understanding'? _____

The sequence included in this passage has been labeled the '*Colossian Cycle*', and describes a chain of events that culminate in an ever increasing knowledge of God. It begins with being filled with, or understanding, the will of God for our lives. This understanding must result in a 'walk' of faith and obedience, evidenced by a life lived 'in a manner worthy of the Lord'. This kind of life bears 'fruit' in the good work done for the Lord.

The ultimate consequence is an increase in our knowledge of God. Why? Because through this sequence of events, we gain a personal knowledge of God as He works in and through our lives. It is one thing to learn about God from a book or a sermon, but quite another when you experience it first hand!

For example, I knew that God was all powerful and ever present in my life, and that He could protect me from harm. After all, that's what you learn in Theology class! But when the leadership of Campus Crusade for Christ asked my wife and I to go to Papua New Guinea to start the ministry there, the only thought I had was, 'Isn't that where they eat people?'. All my theology went out the window! But we went, trusting in God's sovereign protection, and saw Him protect us from danger (even mortal) time and again during the six years we lived there.

Now, what I want to know is, where do you think I really learned that God is able to protect my family and me? From the classroom, the Bible or my walk of faith in Him? I learned *about* God's protection from my teachers and the Bible, but I learned *of* His protection when I had to trust and obey Him. I *know* He is able to protect me, because I have experienced Him do it in response to my faith in Him. *My knowledge of God has increased through my walk of faith in Him.*

Knowing God begins with His written Word, from where we learn about Him and His will for our lives. It is enlarged through a knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Living Word, Who embodies all that God is and Who becomes the model for what God desires us to be. But when we receive that knowledge with 'spiritual wisdom and understanding', and prove it by faith, God personally reveals Himself to us as the God of His Word!

*'but grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'*

2 Peter 3:18

Worshipping God

What comes to your mind when you think of Worship? A group of people singing hymns and praise songs? Prayers that declare God's Nature and Attributes? You're right! But Worship is so much more as we'll see from the following Scripture passages!

1. Worship Affirms Who God Is

Ascribe to the LORD
the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD
in holy array.

Psalm 29:2

- ❖ Circle the two things we are to do to the LORD.
- ❖ Underline what we are to 'ascribe to the LORD'.
- ❖ Underline how we are to 'worship the LORD'.

What does it mean to 'Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name'?

What does it mean to 'Worship the LORD in holy array'?

This verse is part of a contemporary praise song sung in many congregations. You cannot go wrong when you use God's very words as lyrics. But you can go wrong when the songs are sung in a manner that expresses spiritual apathy. How many times have congregants nonchalantly mouthed these words while ignoring their meanings? Remember, these are commands from our King and deserve our utmost devotion to their fulfillment!

We are commanded to give to our LORD the honor and respect due His Name! We are also commanded to worship, or prostrate ourselves before Him. When was the last time you fell on your face in worship of your LORD? It is at once a humbling and inspiring experience! And lest we think our beautiful buildings and fashionable apparel can garner God's pleasure, David instructs us to worship in holiness ... in the purity of our hearts and minds, for only such worship will God accept.

The Psalmist instructs us to do two things in this verse. It is important to note that both are in the form of a command and therefore, are direct orders from our God and King!

Note that the psalmist, David, uses the personal name for God here. He is not talking about a generic deity, but the God who is Creator of all things, and the One who established His covenant with Israel, and through Christ, with all believers.

The word 'ascribe' means to render or to give. We are to give to the LORD glory (honor or reverence) that is due His Name. And since His Name is higher than any other, the honor and reverence due Him must be absolutely supreme!

The word 'worship' means to bow down or prostrate oneself before another. It is an expression of surrender to the preeminence of another. In 'holy array' speaks of worship being brought in utmost purity and sanctity that befits the One who is Holy beyond measure.

If you have never spent time contemplating the excellence of God, you have missed one of your special privileges as a child of God. In obedience to God, practice the following:

1. **Purify yourself** by allowing God's Spirit to search your heart and mind for any sin that you have not confessed to Him. Confess them and claim God's forgiveness through the grace of His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. **Contemplate God's Nature and Attributes.** Complete this Guided Study if you have not already and/or read the recommended books from the Introduction (page 6).
3. **Meditate upon God** and consider each of His divine qualities in turn.
4. **Prostrate yourself before Him** and declare His excellence through your prayers, and songs of worship and praise.

Make the affirmation of God a regular part of your spiritual life. It is food for your soul and strengthens your faith!

2. Worship is Our Service to God

To many, **Worship** is something you do at church. But to God, Worship is everything you do for Him!

Therefore,
since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken,
let us show gratitude,
by which we may offer to God an acceptable service
with reverence and awe;
Hebrews 12:28

- ❖ Circle what we may to offer God.
- ❖ Underline how we are to offer God our service.

The word 'worship' is translated from various Hebrew and Greek words that convey at least two ideas. First, to revere or honor God and second, to render service to Him. Everything we do, whether at home, work or play, is potentially an act of worship to God if we do them with an attitude of service for God! Paul put it this way:

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

Jesus combined the two ideas in His response to Satan when Satan asked Jesus to worship him.

Then Jesus *said to him,
"Go, Satan! For it is written,
'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD,
AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'
Matthew 4:10

Notice that Jesus did not rebuke Satan by telling him to simply worship God, but included service to God as well. Worship and Service are two sides of the same coin! If you want to know what you really worship look at what you serve. You will have found your god, be it money, power, status, material things or fleshly desires, when you discover what you are so willing to work hard for.

The test for anyone who claims to worship God is whether he serves God. Reverence for God is always evidenced by Service for Him, though the opposite may not always ring true (some serve God for reasons other than reverence for Him).

3. Worship is Completing the Work God Has for Us

Our ultimate service to God is the completion of the work He has given each of us to do. Paul reveals that God had more in mind when He saved us than simply preparing us for heaven.

For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand
so that we would walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10

- ❖ Circle what we are.
- ❖ Underline for what we were created.
- ❖ Circle when God prepared the 'good works'.

Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 2:10 that our lives are not accidents of nature, but works of God. He has preordained our days and prepared our acts of service to Him. Our destiny is to serve the King of kings and to fulfill His purpose for us.

A careful observation of this verse reveals a very disturbing truth. Not only has God created us for good works, but He has already prepared those works in advance! The caveat is that we must endeavor to 'walk in them'. That implies a life of faithful service to God.

The completion of the good works God has prepared for us to do brings glory to God, as Jesus testified to His Father.

"I glorified You on the earth,
having accomplished the work
which You have given Me to do.
John 17:4

❖ Underline how Jesus glorified God.

Near the end of His earthly life, Jesus testified that He glorified God by fulfilling the work God had given Him to do. Would we all be able to say that at the end of our lives!

In the busyness of living, it is too easy to miss the most important thing in life ... what God has created us in Christ Jesus to do. If you know God, if you love God, then serve Him with all of your heart and strength, in order that your life may become your ultimate act of worship to the One who alone is worthy!

John chapter 17 is Jesus' prayer to His Father on His disciples' behalf. It expresses Jesus' final thoughts just prior to His betrayal and eventual crucifixion.

Verse 4 reveals Jesus' commitment to honor His Father through His life. The word 'glorified' means to honor, to praise or to magnify. God was magnified through Jesus' devoted service to Him.

*"I urge you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies
a living and holy sacrifice,
acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual service of worship."
Romans 12:1*