

jan 9

attributes of God - part 3

11. God is merciful – He is infinitely, unchangeably compassionate and kind

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” so then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.” - rom 9:15-16

"were there no guilt in the world, no pain and no tears, God would yet be infinitely merciful; but His mercy might well remain hidden in His heart, unknown to the created universe. no voice would be raised to celebrate the mercy of which none felt the need. it is human misery and sin that call forth the divine mercy."
- tozer

12. God is gracious – God is infinitely inclined to spare the guilty

"the Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness." – psa 145:8

when talking about the grace of God, theologians will often differentiate between God's common grace and his saving grace. matthew 5:45 tells us, 'for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.'

while all of humanity benefits from common grace, only those who profess believe and put their faith in Christ

receive saving grace. this is what results in our sanctification and our glorification of God, that we might live for him and enjoy him for all eternity.

13. God is loving – God infinitely, unchangingly loves us

“beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” - 1 John 4:7-8

“it is a strange and beautiful eccentricity of the free God,” tozer writes, “that He has allowed His heart to be emotionally identified with men. self-sufficient as He is, He wants our love and will not be satisfied till He gets it. free as He is, He has let His heart be bound to us forever. God’s love is active, drawing us to himself. His love is personal. He doesn’t love humanity in some vague sense, He loves humans. He loves you and me. and His love for us knows no beginning and no end.”

14. God is holy – He is infinitely, unchangingly perfect

holy, holy, holy, is the Lord almighty” – rev 4:8

that God is holy means He is endlessly, always perfect. and His standard for us is perfection as well.

“therefore you are to be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect,” matt 5:48. that’s why we need Christ. without Christ taking the place for us and dying for our sins, we would all fall short of God’s

holy standard.

"to preserve His creation God must destroy whatever would destroy it. when He arises to put down iniquity and save the world from irreparable moral collapse, He is said to be angry. every wrathful judgment in the history of the world has been a holy act of preservation." - tozer

thankfully, the christian will never have to experience God's holy wrath poured out. through Christ's death and resurrection, the penalty for our sins was paid and we were imputed (credited) with Christ's righteousness. now, when God looks on us, he sees Christ's perfect holiness. hallelujah! it is only in this that we can hope to stand in the presence of the blindingly pure, perfect, Holy One of israel.

15. God is glorious – He is infinitely beautiful and great

“His radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, and there is the hiding of His power.” - hab 3:4

the glory of God is of course, inseparable from his other attributes, so God is eternally, infinitely, unchangingly glorious. His radiance and beauty emanate from all that he is and all that he does. isaiah 43:7 says that man was created by God for his glory. so our whole existence and purpose is to glorify him, as we are created in his image and do the good work he has prepared for us to do. inevitably, man will try to find glory in other things, or to try and make himself

an object of glory. and when those things fail to bring us satisfaction, we must decide to humble ourselves and turn our gaze back to the only one who is worthy of glory.

i guess it's only appropriate that i should spend three days trying to expound on all His attributes. After all, He is a trinity. be that as it may, three days would still not be enough. the wonders of our God could make one go on forever. as the apostle john expressed so well in john 21:25: "and there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, i suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."