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Volume 45, No. 16, April, 21, 2020 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes — designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever.***

## **Meditate upon the Names and Attributes of GOD!**

**On Monday, as I began to read Psalm 20, I found this encouraging EXHORTATION and grounds for solid HOPE— *"The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble:***

***THE NAME of the God of Jacob defend thee... some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember THE NAME of the LORD our GOD!"***

(Ps 20:1, 7)

\*\*\* **Psalm 9:10, proclaims:** *“And they that **KNOW thy name** will put their trust in Thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee.*

\*\*\* **Daniel 11:32b-** *“...the people that do **KNOW their God** shall be strong and do exploits... or stand firm and take action!”*

THE HOLY SPIRIT LED the Apostle Paul to write: \*\*\* **“For my determined purpose is that I may know Him** [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], **and that I may** in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], **and that I may** so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness] even to His death...” (Phil 4:10, Amplified)

**BIG QUESTION:** \*\*\* **What** were we made for? Answer: **To Know God!** \*\*\* **What** aim should we set for ourselves in Life? Answer: **To Know God!** **What** is the ‘eternal life’ that Jesus gives? Answer: **Knowing God!** \*\*\* **What** is the best thing in life, bringing more joy, delight and contentment than anything else? Answer: **Knowing God!** **GLORIOUS REALITY:** **The more I KNOW God**— the more I will LOVE Him! **The more I love Him**— the more I will TRUST and OBEY Him! **The more I trust and obey Him**— the more I will bring PLEASURE to Him! **And the more I bring pleasure to Him**— the more HE WILL BE STRONG on my behalf for His glory!

**2 Chronicles 16:9—** *“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them [to give strong support to those] whose heart is perfect [blameless] toward Him.”*

**GOD REVEALS HIMSELF in the Word of God by His Names and His Attributes!**

## **THE NAMES OF GOD (PRIMARY)**

**1. GOD (HEBREW- EL, ELOHIM, ELYON; GREEK - THEOS).** The basic idea behind the first two Hebrew terms is strength and might. For instance, ELOHIM appears 34 times as the powerful Creator in Genesis chapter one.

The third Hebrew word suggest elevation, making God the high and exalted One who is worthy of all reverence and worship. (Gen 14:18-22). The Greek word, THEOS, is used in the New Testament to correspond to these three Hebrew words.

**2. LORD (HEBREW - ADON, ADONAI; GREEK - KURIOS).** The two Hebrew words come from a root meaning “to judge or rule.” Therefore, this name “Lord” depicts God as the Almighty Ruler, before whom everything and everyone must bow. This name for God also provides the comforting assurance that the Lord is no tyrant but a provider and protector (Gen 15:1-2). The Greek equivalent means “power, master and ruler.” Its core concept is that of authority. Thus, the Lord has the right to reign supreme in all man’s affairs.

**3. LORD (HEBREW - YAHWEH).** This is the most frequently used (5,500 times) and sacred name of God. **Some of the Jews**, (due to superstition or piety/devotion and reverence to God), **refused to even speak this awesome name.** In reading the Scriptures they would usually read ADONI in its place.

The meaning of the term appears in Ex 3:14, ***“I AM THAT I AM.”*** *That is, “I SHALL BE TO YOU WHAT I WAS FOR YOUR FATHERS BEFORE YOU.”* The idea of God’s eternal, covenantal faithfulness to Israel is the predominant thrust behind the word. This name is invariably used in contexts of salvation, (Joel 2:32; cf. Rom 10:13), and is often referred to as the redemptive name of God. **(In the New Testament “I AM” statements, Jesus is revealing Himself as God!)**

## **THE NAMES OF GOD (COMPOUND FORMS)**

**EL-SHADDAI:** Almighty Blesse (Gen 17:1; 28:3; 43:14) / **YAHWEH-TSIDKEENU:** Yahweh our Righteousness (Jer 23:6) / **YAHWEH-NISSI:** Yahweh our Banner (Ex 17:15) **YAHWEH-JIREH:** Yahweh will provide (Gen 22:14) / **YAHWEH-TSEBABOTH:** Yahweh of Hosts/ Armies (Isa 47:4) / **YAHWEH-HOSEENU:** Yahweh our maker/Life maker (Ps 98:6) **YAHWEH-ROPHECA:** Yahweh our Physical or Healer (Ex 15:26) / **YAHWEH-SHALOM:** Yahweh our Peace/Well being (Jud 6:24)

**NOTE: God is named after His nature and, significantly, His nature is to be the solution to a man's every problem!** Each name of God suggests His all sufficiency for man's needs. Thus, for each need of man, God has a corresponding name of resolution!

**Note:** Usually in the KJV when one finds in the Old Testament, '**LORD**' in **capitals**, it is YAHWEH... and often when translators put 'Jehovah', it is in reality, YAHWEH.

## **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD!**

**There are many** Biblical revelations about God— here are 27 ways in which the Bible describes God. **We refer to these as the Attributes of God. LET US READ, STUDY, MEDITATE, WORSHIP, and GROW in our knowledge of God and in our TRUST in God. STRONG REALITY:** *In these days of deepening darkness and growing FEARS, there could be NO MORE IMPORTANT FOCUS in our study than that of the names and attributes of the True and Living God!*

**1. EXISTENCE:** The Bible assumes the existence of God (Gen. 1:1). The fear of God is the very foundation of all knowledge and wisdom. (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). Only "fools" deny His existence (Ps. 14:1; 92:6).

**2. INCOMPREHENSIBILITY:** The chasm that utterly divides the infinite God from finite man is of such immensity that no human intellect could ever span the gulf. (Job 26:14; 36:3-6; 37:5; 38:1; 42:6; Isa. 40:12-18, 25; 55:8-9; Jer. 23:18; Rom 11:33-36; I Cor. 2:4-5, 16). God is wholly above man's most profound formulations and speculations. Besides His existence, power, and glory (which are revealed in nature, the Bible, conscience, and history), God is completely unknowable apart from a special revelation. (Matt 11:27, John 1:18; 6:46; I Cor. 2:11; 14; II Cor. 4:3-4; I Tim 6:16)

**3. MONOTHEISTIC:** The unanimous verdict of Scripture is that there is only one God - The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Deut. 4:35; 32:39; John 5:44; I Cor. 8:4).

**4. TRINITY:** While there is but one God (monotheism), there is a definite **triune nature** within this oneness. The concept of "oneness" does not

imply a rigid singularity. Frequently the word “one” denotes a compound or plural unity- in the cases of marriage (Gen. 2:24; Mal 2:15; I Cor. 6:16, language Gen 11:6) of those who minister (I Cor. 3:6-8) and of a believer’s relationship to God (John 17:11, 22-23; Gal 3:28). **Oneness, with reference to God, describes the unity and commonness that is shared in the Godhead.**

The plurality in the oneness of God is readily evidenced in the very term “God” (usually, Elohim). In the Hebrew this is a plural noun. The English Scriptures make this point plain in such passages as Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isa 6:3, 8; where God, speaking of Himself, uses the expression ‘us’.

**The triune reality of the Godhead is often expressed in Scriptures:** (Isa 42:1; 48:16; Matt 3:16; 12:18; 28:19; Luke 3:22; John 3:34-35; 14:16-17; 15:26; Acts 1:2, 4-5; 10:36-38; Rom 1:3-4; I Cor. 12:3-6; I Jn. 5:6-7.

**Further proof can be found in the names that are used for each member of the Godhead.** All three are specifically called **LORD-** \*Father: Mt 22:37; \*Son: Jn. 20:28; \*Spirit: II Cor. 3:17-18; **and** each expression of the Godhead is called **GOD-** \*Father: I Cor.8:6; \*Son: Jn 20:28; Ti 2:13; Heb 1:8; II Peter 1:1; \*Spirit: Acts 5:3-4.

**5. SPIRIT:** God is spirit (John 4:24); that is, He is spiritual in substance and invisible to the human eye (Luke 24:39). God has no flesh and bones; therefore He is not confined to space.

**6. OMNIPRESENT:** The heavens and the earth cannot contain God (I Kings 8:27; II Chron. 2:6), yet He fills them both. (Ps 139:7-10; Acts 17:27-28). While God is at every place, He is not present in the same degree of manner everywhere. His special or more conscious presence can be detected in certain locations, such as in heaven (Matt 6:9 or in the life of a believer (John 14:16-18, 20, 23).

**7. INVISIBLE:** No man, at any time, has seen God in His **unveiled glory**. (Deut 4:15-18; John 1:18). To view God in His most brilliant glory would mean certain death. (Ex 33:18-23); yet men have viewed God in His **veiled glory** and lived. (Gen 16:7-10, 13; Ex 3:6; 24:9-10; Isa 6:1). **In a future day**, however, all the redeemed will behold God in His full and matchless splendor (Ps 17:15; Mt 5:8; Heb 12:14; Rev 22:4).

**8. ETERNAL:** God has no beginning and He will have no end. **He is the eternal I AM** (Ex 3:14). He always was, always is, and always will be (Gen 21:33; I Chron. 16:36; Ps 90:1-4; 145:13; Isa 40:28; 41:4; Dan 4:34; Rom 1:20; Eph 3:21; I Tim 1:17; II Peter 3:8; Rev 4:8-9).

**9. OMNISCIENT:** Because God is eternal, He is ALL knowing and there is no increase in His knowledge. God is never shocked by any act from the realm of creation, for all things lie before Him- past, present, and future (Gen 14:25-32; I Sam 23:10-12; Ps 139: 15-16; Isa 41:26, 42:9; 44:7; Jer. 1:5; Dan 2:28-45; Matt 6:8, 32; 24:36; Acts 2:23; 3:18; 4:28; Rom 8:29; 11:2 Gal 1:15-16; II Tim 1:9; I Pet 1:2, 20).

**The scope of God's knowledge is absolutely infinite.** His eyes run throughout the whole earth, seeing everything, (II Chron. 16:9; Heb 4:13). Every act of man is fully done in God's penetrating sight, (II Kings 19:27). He even knows the thoughts and intents of the heart, (Gen 6:5; Ps 7:9, Prov. 15:11, Acts 1:24; 15:8; I Thes. 2:4). The condition of His people is ever before Him, (Ex 3:7; Deut 2:7). Even the hairs of every head are numbered, (Mt 10:30). With nature sparrows cannot fall without Him, (Mt 10:29) and He has counted and named every star, (Ps 147:4-5).

**10. WISE:** Divine wisdom might be expressed as the process whereby God takes all His knowledge and applies it to His every act so that the result will always be perfect in accomplishing its goal (Rom 11:33; 14:7-8; Eph 1:4-6, 11-12; Col 1:16. This infinite ability to appropriately apply knowledge is most clearly evidenced in salvation, (Rom 9:11; I Cor. 1:18, 24; 2:7; Eph 3:10).

**11. TRUE:** It is impossible to think of knowledge and wisdom apart from truth. Repeatedly, the Scriptures proclaim that God is truth and that beside Him all else is deception, perversion, and vanity, (Ex 34:6; Num 23:19; Isa 65:16; John 17:3; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18; I John 5:20-21).

**12. INDEPENDENT:** The eternal nature of God demands His self-existence or independence. That is, God is absolutely autonomous. His existence is free of all things. He has no needs to sustain His endurance, (Acts 17:25). To the contrary, everything depends upon Him, (Ro 11:36; Col 1:16).

**13. IMMUTABLE:** If God is eternal and independent, then He must also be immutable— changeless, unalterable, indestructible and immovable in His nature and attributes. Thus, God cannot become better or worse. He is always the same-perfect, (Nu 23:19-20; I Sam 22:31; Ps 33:11; Mal 3:6; Mt 5:48; Acts 4:28; Titus 1:2; James 1:17).

**14. FAITHFUL:** It naturally follows that since God is immutable, He is equally faithful, dependable, and consistent. God demonstrates His faithfulness in keeping His promises, (Deut 7:9; Heb 10:23); in not allowing His Saints to be tempted above what they are able, (Ps 89:20-26; I Cor. 10:13; I Pet 4:19); in abiding with His people even when they are unfaithful to Him, (I Sam 12:20-22; I Cor. 1:8-9; I Thess 5:23-24; II Tim 2:13); in forgiving us when we confess our sins, (I John 1:9); and in answering prayer, (Ps 143:1-2).

**15. SOVEREIGN:** To say that God is sovereign is to declare that God is on His most high throne, designing, creating, directing, executing, regulating, and permitting every event that occurs in heaven and on earth, **according to His own good pleasure and without any restraining influences.** Sovereignty affirms God’s absolute authority to govern the full course of creation (including nations and men) in any manner that best fits His eternally wise, holy, and loving counsels.

**NOTHING IS UNTOUCHED BY THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF THE LORD.** What God wills, He performs and/or controls and/or permits. No accidents are possible in the face of the omniscient, omnipresent, and sovereign God, Ps. 22-28; 75-6-7; 103:19; 115:3; Num 16:5; Ps 65:4; Ez 36:26-27; John 6:37, John 6:39,40,44,65; John 15:16. ***HIS SOVEREIGNTY is most glorious as He, in accordance with His GOOD pleasure, saves undeserving sinners, WHO ARE given by the Father to the Son! (John 17; Romans 1-11; Ephesians 1, etc)***

**16. OMNIPOTENT:** Within the person of God lies all power to perform what He wills. His power is limitless; it has no bounds. There is nothing too difficult for Him, (Ex 9:16; 15:6-7; Ps 29:3-9; 105:26-41; 111:6; Matt 19:26; Mark 10:27; Rev. 19:1).

**17. LOVE:** On four occasions the Scriptures declare that “God is...” — He is “spirit” John 4:24, a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29), “Light” (I Jn. 1:5) and

“love” (I John 4:16). **Respectively, these descriptions depict God’s substance, holiness, perfection, and goodness.** It would be impossible to place any one of these aspects above the other. **God’s personality and character cannot be divided into primary and secondary classes.** (See Deut 4:37; 7:8, 13; 10:15; 23:5 John 3:35 Rom 5:8, 8:37; Heb 12:6) **God is love; and God is HOLY. His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ on Calvary is both the chief expression and definition of Divine love; AND HE WAS THERE because of the righteous demands of God’s holiness.**

**18. GOOD:** “No one is good,” said Jesus, “except God alone” (Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19). This goodness of God is threefold:

**(1) Perfect Goodness**— indicating that there is nothing evil or perverted in the character of God (I Chron. 16:34; Ps 25:8; 86:5 106:1, Acts 14:17).

**(2) Benevolent Goodness**— indicating that God shows mercy to the righteous as well as the unrighteous (Mt 5:45; Luke 6:35; Acts 14:17) and

**(3) Character Goodness**— indicating that God is the source of all virtue and morality. Gal 5:22-23; James 1:17; II Peter 1:3-9.

**19. KIND/LOVING-KINDNESS:** God has an affectionate attachment for His people (To Joseph - Gen 39:21; To Israel - Num 14:19; To David - II Sam. 7:15). It is most frequently associated with God’s goodness to faithfully discharge His providential care (Ex 15:13; Ps 6:4; 31:17) and to provide repentance and forgiveness for sins. Ps 51:1; Ro 2:4; 11:22; Eph 2:7 Titus 3:4).

**20. LONG-SUFFERING:** God’s enduring patience with those who deserve His punishment is called long-suffering. God withholds His judgments, as it were, until the last possible moment. Jer. 11:7; Micah 7:8; Mt. 23:37; Luke 13:6-9, 34; II Peter 3:9, 15.

**22. GRACIOUS:** God is free in His goodness to those who have neither earned nor merited, in any manner, its bestowal. **God receives nothing from man so as to prompt His giving.** God gives out of HIS love, not out of obligation or necessity. **At best, man deserves only God’s wrath** (Ro. 3:10-20), yet God stretches forth His hand and gives amazing grace to hell-

deserving sinners. **This is grace.** (Deut. 7:7-8; 9:5; Isa 42:1 -43-8; Acts 14:3; 18:27; Rom.3:24; 4:16; II Thess. 2:16; Titus 2:11; 3:4-7). **HIS GRACIOUSNESS is NEVER as the expense of His holiness!**

**23. HOLINESS:** The rich term holiness, in both the Hebrew and Greek, expresses the idea of “being set apart”. This separateness involves two realms: physical and moral. In the physical or geographic realm,

**1. God is set apart from** all other so-called “gods” (Ex 12:12; 15:11; 20:3). **Further,**

**2. God is set apart** from all Creation, that is, as the Creator, He stands infinitely and overpoweringly above the Creation. (Ro. 1:18-25).

**3. Also, God is set apart unto His redeemed.** Even as the redeemed are separated unto Him (Lev. 11:44; I Pet. 1:15), so too, God is separated unto them as their Redeemer, Creator, King, and Lord (Isa. 43:14-15; 49:7; 54:1-5).

**4. In the moral realm, God is set apart from all that is evil** (Job 34:10; Heb 1:12; I John 1:5).

**24. RIGHTEOUS/JUST:** Because God is holy, He demands holiness of His creation. Therefore, all un-holiness must be punished. **It is God’s righteousness or justice (same word in the original) that demands a “just” recompense for violating His moral government. Thus, God is the Judge of the universe** (Gen 16:5; Jud 11:27; I Chron. 16:33; Ps 11:4-5; 26:1-2; Acts 17:31; I Cor. 5:13; Heb 10:30-31).

**Of God’s retribution, the following may be said:**

**(1) Judgment is impartial** - Deut. 10:17; Job 13:6-12; Ps 75:7.

**(2) The Judge is righteous:** that is, He is the Standard by which judgment will be made- Gen 4:7;18:25; Ps 62:12; Acts 10:34-35.

**(3) The guilty** will not go unpunished - Ex 20:7; Neh. 1:3.

**(4) The Judge** cannot be bribed - Deut 10:17.

**(5) The unrighteous** are judged both temporally (Lev 26:14-39); Deut 28:15-68) and eternally (Mt 13:30; 25:31-46).

**(6) The righteous** are rewarded both temporally (Mt 5:4-7; 19:29; Mark 10:30) and eternally (Mt 5:8; 16:27; I Cor. 3:10-15).

**(7) The eternal judgment** will be according to opportunity given and works done - Gen 4:7; I Sam 26:23; Prov. 12:14; 24:11-12; Isa 3:10-11; 59:18; Jer. 17:10; 32:19; Hos. 4:9; Zach 1:6 Luke 12:47-48; 13:6-9; John 3:19-20; Rom 2:5-12; Gal 6:7; Rev 2:23; 20:12-13. **NOTE:**

**Dr. R.C. Sproul's hymn Clothed in Righteousness**, features these lines: *"No work of ours is good enough for evil to atone. Your merit Lord is all we have; it saves and it alone."* Scripture is clear that obedience to God is important but that it is imperfect and cannot make us righteous in His sight. The Lord will weigh our works and reward those done in Christ's name, but they will not be the basis for whether He gives us everlasting life. For that we rely on the righteousness of Jesus alone."

**25. JEALOUS:** The jealousy of God is a key principle in the protection of His people. Because God is holy and righteous, He is jealous that His impeccable rules not be broken. He zealously seeks to maintain the loyalty of His redeemed and thereby reflect the worthiness and integrity of His holy nature. (Ex 20:5, 7; 34:14; Joel 2:18).

**26. BLESSED:** The blessedness of God refers to His inexpressible perfection - the sum of all His identifying parts. **When the Scriptures state, "Blessed be the Lord," the idea is this:** "Let God be adored and worshipped and praised." Originally, the word "blessed" meant to bow the knees, but it came to be used commonly in the sense of "to worship, adore, and praise." **Therefore, to bless God is to exalt Him above all!** (Ex 18:10; Ruth 4:14; Luke 1:68; 19:38; John 12:13; I Peter 1:3)

**27. GLORIOUS:** The term "glory" and the phrase "glory of the Lord" speak of the visible presence of God. Wherever God is manifested, there is His glory. **Objectively, this expression has reference to the magnificent appearance, radiating splendor, and beautiful luster of His figure. God's semblance is matchless in glory and brilliance.** (Ex. 33:18-23; Rev 1:12-17) Subjectively, the term depicts the solid recognition that He is

completely worthy to receive all honor, respect, and exaltation (I Chron. 16:29; Ps 24:8; Phil 1:11; 4:20; I Tim 1:17; I Peter 5:11)

***“Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all  
creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy  
Ghost!”***

GRACE TO ONE AND ALL! James Bell

**[Note:** This study was drawn together from a number of sources: Knowing God, J.I. Packer; Gleanings in the Godhead, A.W. Pink; One Holy Passion, R.C. Sproul; Great God of Wonders, Peter Jeffery; and 280 Names and Symbols of Christ, James Large... are valued volumes on the Names and Attributes of God]