

GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF TRUTH Exodus 34:6

To begin this study we need to remind ourselves of the thoughts concerning God's attributes which has been set forth in previous studies. God's attributes are not traits, or characteristics, etc., but rather what God is in His being. Attributes are not things in themselves, but rather thoughts by which we think of God, names given by God so as we may know the Godhead. Eternal, unchangeable, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, merciful, gracious, goodness, and truth are what God is. While we may list the attributes of God separately, it is necessary that we see them as one, i.e. I AM, or God is, because they cannot be separated. They cannot differ in reality for they are what God is.

The essential oneness of all the attributes will be seen in the study of any one of them. If God be self-existent, He must be self-sufficient. If God has power, He has all-power, if He has knowledge, He has all-knowledge. His unchangeableness pre-supposes His faithfulness, and because He is unchanging, He cannot be unfaithful. Any failure within His divine character would argue imperfection, but since God is perfect this cannot occur. The attributes explain each other and prove they are but glimpses our mind enjoys of the absolute perfect God.

All God's acts are consistent with all His attributes. All that God does agrees with all God is, and being and doing are one with Him. God being who He is, cannot cease to be what He is, and being what He is, He cannot act out of character with Himself. "For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth" (Psalm 33:4). "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee" (Psalm 145:9,10).

The first mention of the attribute of truth comes after Moses has asked God to shew him His glory. "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). "The LORD," is Jehovah, the I AM, and, "The LORD God," is Jehovah the righteous God in relation to creation, and His love for them. That God is abundant in goodness and truth is further amplified in the Psalms. "But thou, O lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth" (Psalm 86:15). As the God of truth, God has truth in abundance, it is plenteous, or overflowing with Him.

1. God is truth and is the true God.

God is the true God, the God of truth, and it is what He is. God is the true God in contrast to all false gods, but He is the true God for that is what He is. Several references will give us ample proof of this thought. "Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a **God of truth** and without iniquity, just and right is he" (Deut. 32:3,4). "Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, **O LORD God of truth**" (Psalm 31:5). "That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the **God of truth**; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the **God of truth**; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes" (Isaiah 65:16).

We are told that He is also the true and living God. "But the LORD is the **true God**, he is the **living God**, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation" (Jeremiah 10:10). "He that hath received his (Christ's) testimony hath set to his seal that **God is true**" (John 3:33). "But as **God is true**, our word toward you was not yea and nay" (2 Corinthians 1:18).

2. Christ is truth.

What ever we read of God and Jehovah, we will find true of the entire Trinity. The eternal Word was God (John 1:1). This same eternal Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and the Word that was made flesh was full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Here we see the abundance of the attribute of truth which was revealed to Moses, i.e. full of truth. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). The "I AM," refers back to Exodus 34:6, the eternal God. In our Lord Jesus Christ, who is I AM and the true God, we have the truth of God manifest. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18).

The Lord in His prayer to His Father prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth** . . . that they also might be sanctified through the truth" (John 17:17,19). Christ is the Word, and it is through the Word that we are consecrated and purified.

3. The Holy Spirit is truth.

Whatever we find true of God and Christ, we find true of the Holy Spirit of God. The Trinity of the Godhead requires this to be so. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even **the Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15:26). "Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:13). "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because **the Spirit is truth**. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1 John 5:6,7). The Spirit of truth will guide into all truth, the truth that is in Christ.

4. The God of truth cannot lie.

God being what He is cannot cease to be what He is. God is true, His Word is truth, and all His words must remain true forever. Whenever God speaks it is always truth for that is what He is. Never was there a time when God was not true, or will there ever be a time when God is not true, because He is unchangeable.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19). What God hath said, that will He do, and what God hath spoken, that will He make good. Balaam said he could not alter God's counsel, and from that infers that God Himself would not alter it (vs.8). Such is the imperfection of man, and such is the perfection of God. "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent" (1 Samuel 15:29). If God could say something He would do, or change His counsel and not do it, both would be an effect of weakness and imperfection.

Men change their minds and therefore break their words, and they lie because they repent. God does neither, He never changes His mind (Psalm 119:89), and therefore never recalls His promises. There is no truth existing outside of God. Man comes forth from his mother's womb speaking lies (Psalm 58:3), and all men without exception are liars (Psalm 116:11). The president can lie, our friends can lie, our spouses and children can lie, but God cannot lie for He is not a man.

The true God, the God of truth stands alone for there is no other. "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are

not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure; Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it" (Isaiah 46:9-11).

All fulfilled prophecy testifies to God's truthfulness. Every promise fulfilled is a testimony to God's truthfulness. Our confidence in God's Word is founded on the truthfulness of Him who cannot lie. Our hope for eternal life is founded on God's truthfulness. "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). No one ever yet trusted God in vain. Mankind thinks they want the truth, yet they look in all the wrong places, and when the truth from God's Word is told them they will not hear it.

It is man who changes the truth of God into a lie. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." (Romans 1:25).

5. God's Word is the Word of truth.

God's Word is the Word of truth because it is from the God of truth. Whatever God has written is truth, and no lie is of the truth (1 John 2:21,27). "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9). "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psalm 119:160).

Concerning the Word of truth it is written, "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" (Psalm 138:2).

As the Holy Spirit was inspiring Paul to write his epistles the word "truth" is used 50 times in them. Paul speaks of the word of truth. "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left" (2 Corinthians 6:7). "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). James writes, "Of his own will begat he us by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures" (James 1:18).

6. The importance of the Word of truth.

"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). The truth is the pearl of great price. "Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matthew 13:46). Not everyone has the truth revealed to them (Matthew 11:27), and if God has revealed the truth to us we must never let go of it.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Free from sin, from self, from tradition, from the lie, from man's opinion, from the law, and from the dominion of sin.

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew to the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things (His Word and His oath), in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enetereth into that within the veil" (Hebrews 6:17-19). God's truth and unchangeableness are the anchor of our soul, and are both sure and steadfast.

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth: And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Let the truth be taught which may recover those who have

erred from it, and have been taken captive by the lie of Satan.

"O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth" (Isaiah 25:1).