



Sweeter Than All *Pleasure*

A Resource from
Kindred*Soul* Counseling

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Introduction

“How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose... You drove them from me, You who are the true, the sovereign joy. You drove them from me and took their place, You who are sweeter than all pleasure.”

About the Study

The length given to the supremely wonderful subject matter we are discussing is noticeably short. This is a small study on an infinite subject, namely, the Eternal God of Heaven and Earth. It is an inexhaustible pursuit to know and describe Him, and it should delight us that it is so. During this 6-day study we will scratch the beautiful surface of some of the attributes of our Creator and Sustainer. He has gloriously revealed Himself to us through natural means (Romans 1:20) and His Word (2 Timothy 3:16). As you think on these truths about our Lord, we want to encourage you to always bear in mind that God is all that He is perfectly, in complete unity and harmony. There is no division among His attributes or moments when He ceases to be all that He is. These attributes equally apply to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May dwelling on His glorious perfections bring you all satisfaction and joy!

Soli Deo Gloria

GOD IS
INFINITE
HOLY
GOOD
MERCIFUL
SOVEREIGN
FAITHFUL

Day One

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

God is Infinite

We begin by contemplating the infinitude of God. This is a struggle for us to grasp, as it should be because we are finite creatures. We cannot fully understand the concept of infinity. We live in a world of conceivable measurements, even the highest number we think of can be measured—but not so with the Lord. God is completely unlimited and boundless (Psalm 147:5). Thus, not only is He infinite in the sense that He is not confined in any way, but He is all that He is in complete perfection to the infinite degree (Deuteronomy 32:4). For example, to say that God is righteous, He is perfectly righteous to the infinite degree. To say that God is just, He is perfectly just to the infinite degree and on and on and on. He loves with a love that is infinite. When He sets His mercy on us, He is merciful with a mercy that is infinite. He is good with goodness that is infinite. How glorious! Yet besides the astonishing thought of it, what does God's infinity really mean to us? As we said before, we are creatures of limitations, but not only that, we are creatures of limits who crave unending satisfaction (Proverbs 27:20). We were made to be fulfilled. That God is infinite means you will always be satisfied. You can come to the God of infinite Glory and Power and Wisdom and Love and Mercy and Joy and never thirst. You will never thirst because He is infinite—His well is the well that never runs out of water and the water He gives is perfect. This is Your God, truly, He is sweeter than all pleasure. His care for you is infinite too, let that happy thought cause you to worship and marvel now and always.

Application

Read the following: Genesis 1:1, Job 36:26, Psalm 40:5;90:2; 100:5;147:5, Isaiah 40:28; Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26, John 4:14, Hebrews 13:5, Revelation 1:8

How does this attribute impact...

Your life?

Your relationship with others?

Your relationship with God?

Prayer

Oh all-satisfying Father, You are all that You are perfectly to the infinite degree. These things are so hard for us to grasp but let us run gladly towards them. Let us want to want You. Let our hearts long to know You more and more according to Your Word. Let us never weary of the pursuit of You. You alone can satisfy, for You are infinite and we are not. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Personal Prayer

Day Two

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”

God is Holy

God is unique and completely set apart from sin. He is morally perfect to the infinite degree. Therefore, He is righteous in all that He does. As with infinitude, Holiness undergirds all of His attributes. God is Holy; therefore, His justice is Holy, His mercy is Holy, His wisdom is Holy, etc. His Holiness sets Him apart from everything else. The angelic beings celebrate His Holiness, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory (Isaiah 6:3),” while view of it caused the prophet Isaiah great dread, “Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts (Isaiah 6:5).’” Understanding the holiness of God means realizing how infinitely separated we are from His Divine Perfection. This is why the Cross of Christ is so astonishing. Though He is infinitely Holy, He desires a relationship with fallen creatures and made redemption possible by sending His Son to pay the debt of sin that we could never satisfy. Therefore, a gaze at His holiness gives us great cause to worship. Christ, being infinitely pure, suffered on our behalf so that those who believe “in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).” The truth that God is Holy, Holy, Holy shines a sweet and glorious light on us. God’s absolute moral perfection means that He is eternally without flaw or corruption. We have come to expect shortcomings from those around us. We know that our politicians are not completely truthful, our parents sometimes treat us poorly, scandals will happen and people will morally fail. At the same time, we also have a deep yearning for righteousness. We want evil to be punished and things to be made right. Herein the Holiness of God is of supreme comfort —because God is Holy, His

workings are Holy. We can rest knowing He will work and act consistently with His Holiness in all of His ways, forever.

Application

Read the following 1 Samuel 2:2, Psalm 111:9, Isaiah 6:1-5; 53:3-5, Luke 5:8, Acts 3:14, Romans 3:25; 4:25; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Peter 2:24, Revelation 4:8; 15:4

How does this attribute impact...

Your life?

Your relationship with others?

Your relationship with God?

Prayer

Father, You are Holy. Let us think rightly about You. We are exceedingly sinful, and You are completely without error or stain or blemish. In Christ, you have made a way for us to be with You. This is amazing Lord, and let it always amaze us as it should in view of Your Holiness. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Personal Prayer

Day Three

“Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!”

God is Good

God is the source of all goodness, He is the one by whom we measure what is good. C.S. Lewis put it this way, "A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?" By nature, God is infinitely good and the source of all that is good and holy. God is the highest good for His creatures; He is the inexhaustible fountain out of which all goodness flows. He is abounding in perfect goodness that is without measure or end. His Goodness is a goodness that is powerful and mighty, and shows in His actions and other perfections. God's goodness does not eliminate us from suffering in this broken world, but in our suffering He is still good and is working out all things for His glory and good purpose (Romans 8:28). We can trust that He is with and for us, for He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). God shows His great goodness toward us by His benevolent concern for His creatures through His love, grace, and mercy. In His goodness, God cannot overlook sin, yet in His benevolence toward us God sent His only Son to make a way for sinful man to be restored to Him through the righteousness of Christ. For God, in His goodness, is "ready to forgive and abundant in loving-kindness to all who call upon [Him] (Psalm 86:5)." Let us therefore find rest in God's infinite goodness, which never fails and is in perfect harmony with His infinite perfections.

Application

Read the following Exodus 34:6-7, 1 Kings 8:56, 1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 25:7-8; 31:19; 34:8-10; 69:16-17; 86:5; 100:5; 106:1; 119:68; 135:3; 145:9, Nahum 1:7, Acts 14:17, Romans 8:28, James 1:17

How does this attribute impact...

Your life?

Your relationship with others?

Your relationship with God?

Prayer

Oh Father, source of all that is good, You are abounding in goodness to the infinite degree. Every good and perfect gift is from You. Lord, thank You for pouring out Your goodness on us through Your love, grace and mercy. Help us to remember that You are all good when faced with hard times and brokenness that is all around us. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Personal Prayer

Day Four

“Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy,
He has caused us to be born
again to a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead.”

God is Merciful

Mercy is an aspect of God's goodness where He shows His loving-kindness, pity and compassion toward undeserving, wretched sinners. God is the "Father of mercies (2 Corinthians 1:3)," and in His goodness and love He pours out His infinite and boundless mercy upon sinful man who deserves nothing but wrath. God's mercy does not depend on man nor the deeds of man, but solely on His own goodness. The apostle Paul writes that though he was "formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor" the Lord still showed him mercy because God is merciful (1 Timothy 1:13). God used the apostle Paul to "demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life (1 Timothy 1:16)." God extended His great mercy out to ruined sinners by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus, to be the perfect substitute for sinful man. Through Jesus, forgiveness and justice kiss and are in perfect accord, as Jesus is both Just and the Justifier (Romans 3:23-26). Christ paid the penalty for sin, satisfying God's wrath against sinful man. R.C. Sproul writes, "In the drama of justification, God remains just. He does not set aside His justice; He does not waive His righteousness; He insists upon it...He is both just and justifier, which is the marvel of the gospel." The greatest manifestation of God's love and mercy toward sinners is found in His declaration of those who believe in Jesus to be righteous. God is indeed rich in mercy because of His great love, with which He loved us. He is infinitely good to all and "His mercies are over all His works (Psalm 145:9)." In Christ, we can boldly approach the throne of His Mercy and Grace with glad joy and all confidence (Hebrews 4:16). Let us bask in the truth that God gives His children new mercies every morning, and that His mercies never cease.

Application

Read the following: Psalm 6:4; 86:5; 145:8, Lamentations 3:22-23, Luke 1:50, Romans 9:14-24, 2 Corinthians 1:3, Ephesians 2:4-51, Titus 3:5-6, Hebrews 4:16, James 5:11, 1 Peter 1:3, Jude 1:21

How does this attribute impact...

Your life?

Your relationship with others?

Your relationship with God?

Prayer

Oh Father of mercies, how merciful You are to this ruined sinner. You are abounding in loving-kindness and compassion toward us who so deserve wrath. My God, what great love You poured out on us when you sent Your only begotten Son to pay the price for our sin. Thank You that in Him You give us infinite mercy, covering our sin and shame in the blood of Christ. Draw us near to You and let us ever praise You. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Personal Prayer

Day Five

“For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation”

God is Sovereign

The word sovereign refers to one who rules above all with absolute authority. God is the absolute supreme authority “exalted above all peoples” (Psalm 99:2); He is in full control to the infinite degree. God is sovereign in His position, which can never be usurped, and in His power, which can never diminish. God’s sovereignty is never absent of any of His other perfections; His sovereignty is perfectly righteous, good, loving, holy, just, etc. Therefore, we can confidently trust in His providence. When we trust that God is sovereign and His plan is perfect, we are reverently submitting to His will and in this are able to taste His peace that “surpasses all comprehension” (Philippians 4:7). Everything that happens is in His hand; therefore, nothing happens unless He so ordains or allows it. It is important to note that though sin is part of God’s eternal plan, He neither created nor commissioned it. God allowed sin to enter the world through the free will of man who chose to rebel. God’s sovereignty is in harmony with man’s free will, though our finite minds cannot fully grasp this. God is the Creator, Ruler and Master over all; everything owned by man is only on loan from God. We are not our own nor were we created for self, but to glorify God. He is completely free to do all things according to His will, glory, good pleasure and purpose. “Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all the depths (Psalm 135:6).” Nothing and no one can alter what He has determined or take Him by surprise, for He decreed all things from the beginning to the end. What He decreed is perfect; no wisdom can question or dispute His omniscience. There is no limit to God’s immutable sovereignty, for God is the Alpha and Omega. All glory, honor and praise belong to Him forever.

Application

Read the following: 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, 2 Chronicles 20:6, Job 23:13-14, Psalm 33:11; 47:1-2; 97:9; 99:1-5, Proverbs 3:5-8; 16:9; 21:30-32, Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; 9:1, Isaiah 46:9-10, Daniel 4:34-35, Ephesians 1:11

How does this attribute impact...

Your life?

Your relationship with others?

Your relationship with God?

Prayer

Prayer: Oh Supreme Ruler of the heavens and earth, we acknowledge that You are in complete control and that all that You do is for Your glory and good purpose. Thank You that You hold all things in Your hand and that nothing that happens is outside of Your plan. Father, help us remember that You are the Alpha and Omega whose power knows no limit. Oh that we would trust You, for You know the best course of action for our lives. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Personal Prayer

Day Six

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

God is Faithful

The word “faithful” stands among the English language as extraordinarily beautiful. So much is conveyed by the word to our own ears when we hear it; adversely, so much hurt and pain is caused to our souls when we hear its negation, “unfaithful.” Yet, we can never expect to hear it in the negative tense when discussing our Great Lord—for He is the Faithful One (Revelation 19:11). How lovely! We must remind ourselves again, as we ponder and delight in the perfections of our God to bear in our minds the glorious fact that He is One in His perfections. Faithfulness dances with Mercy and Sovereignty and Goodness and Holiness and so forth, perfectly and infinitely to a harmonious tune for all eternity. The meaning conveyed by the Hebrew and Greek word for “faithful,” as used in the Scriptures, is to “prop up or support.” The picture we are to see is a strong column supporting a building or a strong arm firmly supporting and carrying a helpless, weak infant. God is completely and wholly faithful to keep His Word and His Promises. He is the strong column upholding the building and we may both rely on Him to support us and lean against Him without fear of the beam ever giving way. This leads us to a most happy place of trust, where we dwell without worry or doubt that He will fail in anyway. Have you tasted the peaceful sweetness of embracing the faithfulness of God? This truth is the truest of true and we need not ever wonder about His ability or willingness to accomplish all of what He has promised. Perhaps most striking about the absolute faithfulness of God is that it is not dependent upon ours. We are unfaithful creatures who turn away from Him to other pleasures in but a moment. Yet, because God is faithful and sent His Son to the Cross to purchase our redemption, there stands such a promise found in 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He

is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Let the fact that He is Perfectly Faithful to the infinite degree provide the cool shade for you to live and work and play in peace and confidence and hope.

Application

Read the following: Numbers 23:19, Deuteronomy 7:9; 32:4, Acts 13:32-33, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 3:2-6, Revelation 1:5; 19:11

How does this attribute impact...

Your life?

Your relationship with others?

Your relationship with God?

Prayer

Lord, You are the Faithful One—forever and always. Let us rejoice in this and dwell on that aspect of Your Perfection often. In faithfulness You work and so went to the Cross. You keep Your Word. We are creatures of unfaithfulness, but it is most happy that You are nothing like that nor could You be. Let us trust You with complete certainty in view of understanding and clinging ever to Your Faithfulness. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.

Personal Prayer

Outro

As we discussed at the beginning, studying the Lord's attributes is a glorious and inexhaustible pursuit. We hope you've enjoyed this glance at His perfections and that it encourages you to further study and marvel at His beauty and splendor. May beholding His altogether loveliness intimately delight your soul. If you're interested in studying the attributes of God in more detail, we recommend checking out any of the works we used below to help us compile this resource:

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The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict Ken Sande

What the Bible Teaches R.A. Torrey

About *Us*

We exist to offer Gospel-centered soul care for women seeking spiritual and emotional support at any stage of life. We believe that the Bible speaks into our struggles, and in certain seasons of life, each of us may need the careful encouragement and wisdom of another to help us make the connections between Scripture's truth and our human experience.

Spiritual and Emotional
Support / “Bear one another’s
burdens, and so fulfill the law
of Christ. Galatians 6:4 / A
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