

## LESSON 6

# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### PART- II

**Reading** : *Rom. 1:18-32, Deut. 19:1-18*

**Memory verses** : *1 Pet. 1:14-16*

**Theme** : *To grow in the knowledge of God.*

**Introduction:** We have studied the natural attributes of God. Which are they? Now we are going to learn about His moral attributes. The most important of them are holiness, love, righteousness, mercy and faithfulness.

#### **I. HOLINESS:**

Unless we do not have the vision about God's holiness, we will not be able to see the evil around us. We see the miraculous change that took place in Prophet Isiaah when he saw the holiness of God (Isa. 6:1-8). God's holiness is beyond our thinking. Isiaah has referred to God as 'the Holy One of Israel' 30 times.

1. God's holiness is a reality (Isa. 5:16, 6:3, Psa. 99:5, Lev. 11:44, 45, 19:2, John 17:11, 1 Pet. 1:15, 16, Rev. 4:8).

2. The meaning of holiness: Bible uses the word 'holiness' in sense of separation. God is separated from all uncleanness. The washings in the Old Testament (Lev. 8:6), the partitions in the Tabernacle, the consecration of the Levites and the priests (Lev. 8), the commandment that people should not approach Sinai (Exo. 19:12), etc. point towards the holiness of God. People of God must keep themselves separated from all sin and sinful circumstances (2Cor. 6:16-17).
3. **How do we know that God is holy?**
  - a). God hates sin (Prov. 15:9, Acts 25:16)
  - b) God punishes sinner (Exo. 34:7)
  - c) The punishment of sin was put on Jesus Christ to save and cleanse man who has been defiled by sin. The death of atonement of Jesus Christ became necessary because God is holy and righteous. "It was the Lord's will to crush him" (Isa. 53:10). "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).
4. **What should we do as God is holy?**
  - a) Approach God with fear (Heb. 12:28-29)
  - b) Realize our uncleanness, submit ourselves in the presence of God, confess our sins and receive cleansing through the atoning death of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7-9).
  - c) We must be holy in our thinking, words and actions as God who loves and saves us is holy (1 Pet. 1:14-16).

## II. LOVE

What is the meaning of the statement. 'God is love'? It means that love is the unchanging attribute of God. Man does not use the word love after fully knowing its meaning. Real love is to work solely for the good of the person whom we love. In the process, there will not be any act of selfishness. God's love is like that. The word used for this type of love in the original language is 'Agape'. Human love, most of the time, is mixed with selfishness. Such love is termed: 'Eros'.

### 1. **God's love is a reality (1John 4:8-11):**

Not only that God loves, but He is love personified. Love is the

basis of all moral values. We know real love from the love that was shown to us by Jesus Christ in laying down His life for us (John 3:16, Rom. 5:6-10, Matt. 5:44-45).

## **2. There is no limit to God's love:**

God loves His Son Jesus Christ. "Christ is the object of God's love" (John 17:23,24). God loves the world (John 3:16). Hence God wants everyone to be saved through Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:4, 2 Pet. 3:9). God loves the sinners, the wicked and the lost (Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5, Eze. 33:11, Luke 15:7-10). But the Scriptures reveal that He has special love for those who have accepted the Son of God and become one with Him (John 16:27, 14:21, 17:22-23, Rom. 8:28-35). Let us endeavour to understand the depth, the length, the breadth and the height of God's love (Eph. 3:17-19).

## **3. How has God's love been revealed?**

It is impossible to define love. It is revealed through actions. God has revealed His love for man by His dealings with man.

- a) The greatest revelation of God's love is on the cross. Jesus Christ accepted the most horrible death by crucifixion to save mankind from the punishment, influence and presence of sin and make them eligible for the glory and sonship of God (1 John 4:9, 10, John 3:16, Eph. 2:4,5, Rom. 5:6-8, 1 John 3:1).
- b) God's love is shown in the protection that He bestows on His people by granting them deliverance from all evil and peace and happiness in their lives. He takes care of all their spiritual and material needs (Rom. 8:31-35, Deut. 32:9-14, 33:3, 26-29, John 14:27, Phil. 4:4-7, 1 Thes. 5:23-24).
- c) He has shown His children by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell with them always (John 14:16-18, 26, John 16:7, 13, Rom. 5:5).
- d) God's love is expressed through the punishment that He gives His people for their sanctification (Heb. 12:6-11). The Lord disciplines those whom He loves. By His disciplining, the people of God will be blessed and receive righteousness, the fruit of peace (1 Pet. 1:7, Mal. 3:3).
- e) God comforts His people in their sufferings. Even though a mother may forget her child, God will never forget His children (Isa 49:13-16). How wonderful is God's love!

### III. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD:

Righteousness is closely related with holiness. Righteousness is the attribute in which one does always the right things.

1. The righteousness of God is a reality: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways" (Psa. 145:17). "The Lord is gracious and righteous" (Psa. 116:5).
2. God shows His righteousness through all His works.
  - a) God loves righteousness and hates wickedness (Psa. 45:7, 11:5).
  - b) He gives just punishment to sinners according to their deeds (Rev. 16:5-6, 19:2).
  - c) He gives just reward to everyone according to their faithfulness (2 Tim. 4:8, 2 Thes. 1:6-7).
  - d) He saves His people out of all troubles (Psa. 34:6).
  - e) God fulfills all His promises (Deut. 7:12-15).
  - f) We see the display of God's righteousness on the cross. He met the requirement of righteousness by sending His own son to take the punishment for the sin of mankind. He grants deliverance and justification to those who believe in Him (Rom. 8:1-4, Isa. 53:4-6).

#### *Questions*

1. Which are the moral attributes of God?
2. How has God revealed His holiness?
3. What is the meaning of God's love?
4. How has God displayed His love?
5. Explain with references from the Bible how God reveals His righteousness through His works.
6. Name the prophet who got the vision of the holiness of God. What were his experiences?
7. What is the purpose of learning about the natural and moral attributes of God?

