

LESSON 6

Attributes of God - II

- Objective** : To be partakers of the divine nature by growing in God's wisdom.
- Bible Portion** : Rom.1:18-32, Deut. 19:1-18.
- Memory Verse** : I Pet. 1:14-16.

as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Introduction

Have we learnt the natural attributes of God? Now we will study about the moral attributes of God. God has certain moral qualities and men should experience them. Some of such characteristics are holiness, love, justice, compassion and faithfulness. It will be helpful for us to love God more and reflect the holy characteristics of God.

I. Holiness:

Whenever one is unable to receive the revelation of holiness, he cannot see the unholy element around him and may not get a solution. Isaiah, the prophet, when he had confronted with the revelation of holiness, it changed him fully. (Is. 6:1-8). God's holiness is beyond all our thoughts. Isaiah mentions about God as 'holy one of Israel' in 30 times.

1. The holiness of God is a reality: Is.5:16,6:3,Ps.99:5,Lev.11:44-45,19:20,Jn.17:1,I pet.1:15-16;Rev.4:8.
2. The meaning of holiness: The word 'holiness' is used in the Bible in the sense of separation. God himself is away from uncleanness. Washing with water (Lev.8:6), different parts of tabernacle, the dedication of Levites and priests (Lev. 8) and the command of God to Israel that they do not come near to the Senai mountain (Ex.19:12) express the holiness of God. The children of God should lead a holy life and separate themselves from unholiness.
3. How God's holiness has been revealed?
 - a. God hates sin (Prov. 15:9, Deut. 25:16).
 - b. God punishes the sinner (Ex. 14:7).
 - c. Jesus bore the condemnation of sin in order to deliver the sinners from the punishment. Jesus had to become a sacrifice or ransom for many because God is holy and just. Yet it was the will of God to crush him (Is. 53:10). The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us. (Is.53:6).
4. Being God is holy, what should we do?
 - a. Go near to him with fear (Heb. 12:28-29).
 - b. We should receive the revelation of God's holiness, and also submit ourselves by confessing our sins. We should get cleansed by the holy sacrifice of Jesus Christ. (I Jn.1:7-9).
 - c. We should maintain holiness in deeds, words and thoughts because God is holy and, he loves and saves us. (I Pet. 1: 14-16).

II. Love

What is the meaning of the phrase ‘God is love’? It is God’s unchanging character. Men use the word ‘Love’ not in the real sense. Love is real and it looks and acts for the goodness of the one whom we love. It does not have any selfish motives. This is called God’s Love. The word used for God’s Love in Greek is ‘agape’. Love of men, many a times, possesses selfishness. The root word for this is ‘Eros’.

1. The Love of God is a reality (Jn.4:8-11)

God not only loves, he himself is love. The important thing behind all moral values is love. We understand the very love through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.(I Jn.3:16,Rom.5:6-10,Mt.5:44-45).

2. The Love of God has no limitation and boarder

God loves his son, Jesus Christ. Christ is the subject of God’s love always. (Jn.17:23-24). God loves the world (all individuals in world). (Jn.3:16). God desires everyone repent and have eternal life through Jesus Christ. (ITim. 2:4; II Pet.3:9). He loves the sinners, ungodly and the lost (Rom.5:8, Eph.2:4-5, Ez.33:11, Lk.15:7-10). God loves believers who come into the relationship with him. (Jn.16:27; 14:21;17:22-23;Rom.8:28-35). In order to understand the depth of the love of God, we must realize the love of Christ, which is beyond the wisdom. (Eph.3:17-19).

3. How the love of God has been revealed?

It is very difficult to define love. It can be expressed through actions or deeds. God revealed and expressed his love to men through his dealings.

- a. Jesus Christ came into this world and bore the death at cross. It was because he had to save the world from the condemnation of sin, and also from the power and circumstances that Satan raises against the men. He wants us to become the children of God to call God abba, father.(I Jn. 4:9-10, Jn.3:16, Eph. 2:4-5,Rom. 5:6-8,I Jn.3:1).
- b. When a person acknowledges Christ’s love at cross, and takes refuge in him, will be delivered from all evils. He will be revealed the love of God and it makes him peaceful and happy and they will be

satisfied spiritually and physically.(Rom.8:31-35, Deut.32:9-14;33:3,26-29,Jn.14:27,Phi.4:4-7,I Thes.5:23-27).

- c. God has sent the Holy Spirit to us to dwell in us all the times. Thus, he revealed his love. (Jn. 14:16-18, 26; 16:7, 13; Rom.5:5).
- d. The love of God is also revealed in the punishment given to men for their purification. (Heb.12:6-11). God punishes whom he loves. The punished will be blessed and they will bring the offering in the righteousness to the Lord. (I Pet. 1:7,Mal.3:3).
- e. God stays with his people and strengthen them at the time of sufferings. Even if a mother forgets the baby, God will never forget his people. (Is.49:13-16). How wonderful is his Love!

III The righteousness of God

The righteousness is a quality that always connected to holiness. Righteousness refers to ‘What is right’.

- 1. God’s righteousness is a reality

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. (Ps.145:17). The Lord is gracious and righteous. (Ps.116:5).

- 2. God reveals his righteousness through his actions.

- a. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness. (Ps.45:7, 11:5).

- b. God punishes the sinners for their wickedness. (Rev.16:5-6, 19:2).

- c. He rewards everyone for their faithfulness. (II Tim. 4:8, II Thess. 1:6-7)

- d. He delivers the god-fearing ones from their suffering. (Ps.103:6).

- e. God fulfils his promises. (Deut.7:12-15).

The law of righteousness is that a sinner must be punished. So God sent his son to the world as a sin offering. He laid the condemnation of sin on Jesus. Those who believed in Jesus will be justified and delivered. We can see the manifestation of God’s righteousness on Calvary. (Rom. 8:1-4, Is. 53:4-6).

Questions:

1. What are the moral attributes of God?
2. In what ways, God revealed his holiness?
3. What do you mean by 'the love of God'?
4. In what ways, God revealed his love?
5. Prove with Bible verses that God reveals his righteousness through his works?
6. Name the prophet who had received the revelation of God's holiness? What were his experiences?
7. What is the objective of learning natural and moral attributes of God?