

A scenic photograph of a beach. In the foreground, golden sand is marked with several footprints. The ocean waves are breaking onto the shore, creating white foam. In the background, a large, dark island is visible on the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

What is God Like?
5 of 11
GOD IS MERCIFUL.

Attributes of God - Part 2

ABSOLUTE INFINITY

Infinite in each attribute

ABSOLUTE ETERNITY

God inhabits eternity
Isaiah 57:15

IMMUTABILITY

Unchangeableness of God
James 1:17
Malachi 3:6

TRANSCENDENCE & IMMANENCE

Makes everything outside of Himself

LOVE

1 John 4:8

LIGHT

1 John 1:5

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER AND RIGHTEOUS

Romans 3:25-26

GOOD

Mark 10:17-18

MERCIFUL

Deuteronomy 4:31
Psalm 136

HOLY & JEALOUS

Joshua 24:19

LONGSUFFERING

Romans 2:4
Exodus 34:6

TRUE

Exodus 34:6
Romans 3:4



The Grace and Mercy of God; Definitions:-
God's grace. (Greek **CHARIS**) His unmerited favour towards sinners.

God's mercy. (Greek '**ELEOS**) is divine compassion shown toward the miserable and distressed.

In the Old Testament, the mercy of God was made known to Israel by two Hebrew words:-

'HESEDH' - usually translated kindness or **loving kindness.**

'HANAN' - usually translated **to be gracious** to be **inclined to mercy.**

Exodus 34:6; Deut. 4:31; Exo. 33:19; Psalm 136:1.

As we look at the **mercy** of God, don't confuse it with emotional permissiveness or as something we deserve; **God is merciful because of His grace.**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

If we look at **Psalms 136** it is a very well-known Psalm, simply because the mercy of God is put through it like a thread – after every verse you have this little group of words:-

'For His mercy endures forever'.

Many translate it as **His Loving Kindness endures.**

We will not take time to read the whole of the Psalm, but let's read the first few verses to get the idea of the Psalmist behind this theme.

I will read the first part if you will follow with “His Mercy endures forever.”

Knowing God - HIS Mercy

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. /His faithful love endures forever.
2. Give thanks to the God of gods. / His Mercy endures forever.
3. Give thanks to the Lord of lords. / His Mercy endures forever.
4. Give thanks to Him who alone does mighty miracles./His Mercy!!!
5. Give thanks to Him who made the heavens so skillfully. /His Mercy!!
6. Give thanks to Him who placed the earth on the water. / His Mercy!!
7. Give thanks to Him who made the heavenly lights./ His Mercy edures!!
8. The sun to rule the day. / His Mercy endures forever.
9. And the moon and stars to rule the night./ His Mercy endures forever.
10. Give thanks to Him who killed the firstborn of Egypt. / His Mercy!!
11. He brought Israel out of Egypt. / His Mercy endures forever.
12. He acted with a strong hand and powerful arm./ His Mercy endures!!
13. Give thanks to Him who parted the Red Sea./ His Mercy endures!!
14. He led Israel safely through. / His Mercy endures forever.
15. but He hurled Pharaoh and his army into the sea. /His Mercy endures!!

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

Isn't that Powerful? Listen to Ephesians 2 this time:-

“Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.”

“We too were all among them once, living only by our natural inclinations, obeying the demands of human self-indulgence and our own whim; our nature made us no less liable to God's retribution than the rest of the world.”

“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favour (grace) that you have been saved!).” Eph 2:1-5;

On that day when the Lord Jesus Christ bursts the clouds, and He takes us home to be with Himself - His blood-bought church that He has redeemed.

When we sit up there in heaven, and we sing the praises of Him who died, and we worship the Lord around that great throne, I believe that the sweetest song that we will have is the song of God's mercy. 'His mercy endures for ever'.

I don't know whether this will happen or not,
but as we sit in heaven, and **as we have a moment
to meditate and to ponder** how we've got there.
We will realise **it is only by God's mercy?**

We will sing a song of praise
for **what God has done,**
in pitying us and in having compassion on us.

When we think to ourselves:-
“What right have I to be here?” We who Paul
says:- **“Once you were dead, doomed forever
because of your many sins.”**

**“We used to live just like the rest of the world,
full of sin, obeying Satan,
the mighty prince of the power of the air.”**

**Is it any wonder that three times in Psalm 136;
the Psalmist invites God's people
to thank the Lord for His mercy.**

Remember that is what it begins with:-

**“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good:
for His mercy endures for ever.”**

**Can you imagine it? How it would have sunk
into the hearts of those sinners looking
to a slain lamb, how God –
who delivered them from Egypt:-
was merciful, and His mercy endured for ever!**

**This Psalm, like an 'interleaved' Bible,
was teaching these Israelites to
intertwine all things in life with
the thought of the glorious mercy of God.**

**Is it any wonder that Joseph Adison said this,
as he penned his hymn:-**

**'When all Thy mercies, O my God, My rising
soul surveys. Transported with the view,
I am lost in wonder, love and praise'.**

**I want us to look at that first:- What is the mercy of God?
Secondly:- Where can the mercy of God be witnessed?
Thirdly:- What difference does God's mercy make to us?**

**If we were to define mercy, it is simply the infinite
inexhaustible energy of God. It is His infinite
inexhaustible energy to be compassionate!
His mercy is the manifestation of His love.**

God's love as the basis of His mercy as is shown in John 3:16; "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It was His love for us that caused Him to extend His mercy.

The mercy of God is the disposition of His nature which leads Him to help us when we are in misery and to pardon us when we have offended Him.

Mercy and grace are closely linked in meaning, grace implying unmerited favour. God extends His grace because He is merciful.

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

The contrast between human and divine love is expressed by Paul. Rom 5:6-8;

“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

**This is how His love operates –
this is the mechanism,
the arm of God's love is His mercy.**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

It is the result and the effect of His goodness:-

The Lord is good:-

His mercy is pity, He looks upon us and He pities us.

**His mercy is when He looks upon sin and
He pities the guilt and the result of it.**

**God, in the Bible, in His great revelation
of who He is, is represented
more in mercy than in anger.**

**Definitely the mercy of God is deeper than
the depths of His wrath and His indignation,
for He loves to be merciful! He is
more inclined to mercy than He is to wrath.**

**In fact, we find God's mercy
four times more in the Old Testament
than we do within the New Testament.**

**We must banish the thought that the God of Israel in
the Old Testament is an angry God of justice, a God
of judgement; but the God in the New Testament,
for the church, is full of mercy and grace and love.**

Our God is an unchangeable God!

**He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever!
Although the New Testament, of course, is the full
revelation of our God - and we don't know Him in all
His mercy until we come into the New Testament:-**

Nevertheless God **has always been,**
and always will be,
a God of mercy... for that is
what He is in Himself, merciful.

In 1 Kings 3:6; we read that **God's mercy is great.**
Psalm 86; we read that **He is plenteous in mercy.**
Psalm 103; from everlasting
to **everlasting is His mercy.**

Luke 1; **“He is tender in mercy”.**
1 Peter says. **“Out of His abundance**
He Is Overflowing in mercy”.

In Eph 2; we read:-
“But God, who is rich in mercy”.

Psalms 103:11; “For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy towards them that revere Him.”

That's God's mercy! Immeasurable, unlimited, eternal, stretching from age to age.

It is the mercy of God that is the tugboat that draws the sinner's foundering vessel into the arms of God.

It is the mercy of God that saves the sinner.

It is what draws us to a Saviour, “The Lord is merciful, gracious... long-suffering... abundant in goodness.”

In fact, when you go into the book of the Revelation – and indeed throughout the Bible:-

God is pictured and represented as being a great King, sitting on a throne with a rainbow about His throne. The rainbow, of course, is a representation of the mercy of our God.

Have you ever thought about that?
The God, in the Bible,
in His great revelation of who He is,
is represented more in mercy than in anger.

Definitely the **mercy of God** is deeper
than the depths of His wrath and His indignation,
for He loves to be merciful!
He is more inclined to mercy than He is to wrath.

An old puritan called Watson, said:-
**“For God, acts of severity are rather forced
from Him, He does not afflict willingly”.**

It's like the bee in the summertime,
busily going from one flower and its pollen
to another, and what is it doing?

It is making honey because it naturally does that, and it goes from a flower to a flower and eventually it goes home, and there in the honeycomb it makes its honey - it's natural to it.

But then when a young child happens to annoy it, it stings!

It doesn't sting naturally, but only when it is provoked – and that's like our God. God is naturally merciful, but when God is provoked He will be angered, but He loves mercy rather than anger!

Mercy is said to be the work of God's right-hand - most of us are right-handed, and that's simply what the word of God means:-

That it is the thing that God likes to use the most, His mercy.

**He is more used to His right hand,
He is more used to exercising mercy.**

God does not, in a sense, want to inflict punishment
- indeed, in Isaiah 28:21; it is described as
'His strange work', It is strange for God
to punish people, He is slow to anger.

When He punishes a nation in the book of Isaiah
it is said of Him that He: 'hired a razor to shave them'
- imagine God hiring anything! You would think God
wouldn't need to hire anything or borrow anything!

But in Isaiah it says “He hires a razor to shave
them in anger and indignation.”:-
As if it's not His own, He has to borrow
this part to do an act of wrath!

**Imagine how God would be
if He had no mercy.**

**Imagine what the holiness of God would be
if there was no mercy.**

**Imagine what the justice of God would be
if mercy had no part in it.**

**The mercy of God, just like His Love
over arches His other attributes:- The
mercy of God sweetens His other attributes.**

**It's like old Moses, you remember,
the children of Israel came to the waters of
bitterness and they couldn't drink from it,
and what did Moses do? **He cast the tree
into the waters and made them sweet.****

**That is what the mercy of God is like
to all His other attributes,
it makes them sweet.
It is one of His glories,
it is one of the jewels in His crown.**

**Remember we need to think right thoughts about
God and contemplate God, In Exodus chapter 33 we
see that wonderful encounter of Moses with His God.**

Moses spoke with God as a man talks with his friend, and we saw that in his brokenness, in his thirst after God:-

**One who knew God in a way, that we will not know Him until we get to glory, he was able even to pray:
'Lord, show me your glory!'**

And the answer that was given back to Moses was this: 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will show you mercy.'

That's what God wants to show to the world. In fact, even God's enemies receive mercy, it's like the dew that falls on the thistle as well as the rose.

God's mercy - the sun shines on the righteous and on the unrighteous, and not just those that dwell in the presence of God.

You remember Pharaoh, we read about him in the Exodus and the Psalms, as he was crossing the Red Sea pursuing, as a predator, after the Israelites -
Pharaoh's head was crowned, and God had shown him mercy to put that crown upon his head.

Remember Joseph had helped make the Pharaoh's powerful. Even though his heart was hardened, his head was crowned! For the Lord, the word of God says, "is good to all; the Lord is merciful to all".

**Just because God is Merciful does not mean
that we can take His mercy for granted.**

**There comes a point when
our actions have to be dealt with
Justice must be seen to be done.**

Sin has consequences!

**Men who are rebellious can stretch
God's Mercy too far,
Many blatantly stand up proudly and say
'I don't need the mercy of God!'**

**Because God is a Just God.
He MUST punish sinners:- Justice demands it.
Therefore, how is it possible for God to remain Just
Yet still pardon the condemned sinner?**

How can **God in His gracious kindness declare us not guilty?** He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. **For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us.**

We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.

God was being entirely fair and just when He did not punish those who sinned in former times.

He is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they trust in Jesus. Rom 3:24-26;

**Paul declares that God is a Just Judge
because He paid the price of our freedom
by sending His own Son
to shed His blood for our redemption.**

**Therefore, God's Justice and Wrath has been
satisfied by His grace and mercy which sent
His Son into the world to die on a cross.**

**It is upon the basis of Christ's sacrifice
upon the cross that all men,
of all ages, may be justified. - Heb. 9:15-22;**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

The **mercy seat** on the ark of the covenant
WHERE GOD'S JUSTICE AND MERCY MEET.



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The mercy seat.

**In the Old Testament, the Ark of the covenant,
the lid that was on top of it:-**

Was called the mercy seat!

**It was the God-appointed place
where Moses would commune with God.**

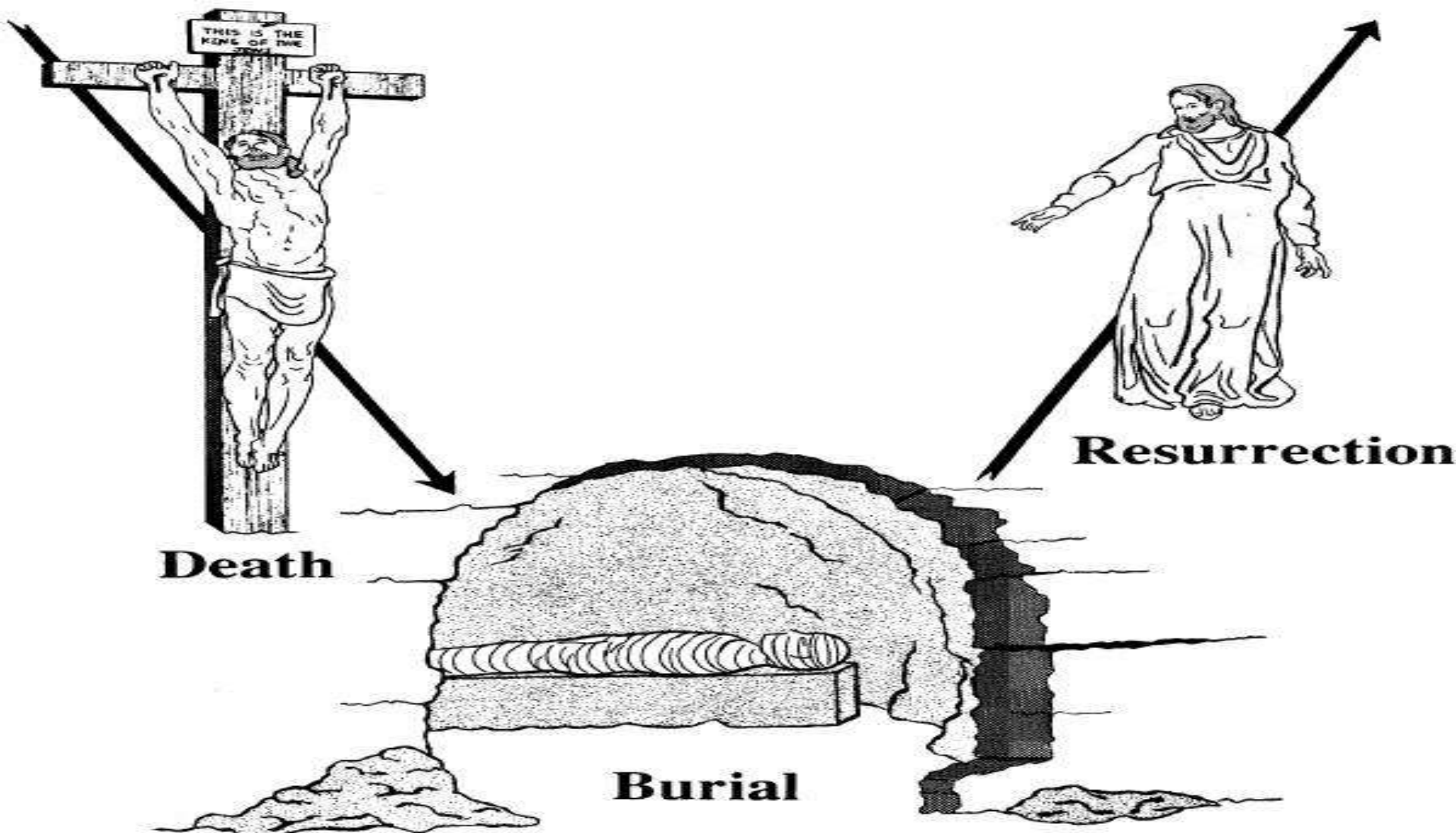
**That was the place where the high priest,
once a year on the Day of the Atonement,
would sprinkle the blood.**

**That was the place associated
with covering and the removal of sin –
through the blood. God has mercy!**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

The mercy seat Today

WHERE GOD'S JUSTICE AND MERCY MEET.



The Lord Jesus Christ is His mercy seat.

Calvary is where God meets the sinner and extends mercy.

**Wasn't it said, prophetically, of our Lord Jesus Christ
in Psalm 85:- 'Mercy and truth are met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other'**

Hymn writers have put it well in all their different ways.

One modern one puts it like this:

**“Come worship at His feet, where wrath and mercy meet
and a guilty world is washed in love's pure stream.”**

Another writes

**“Great is the Gospel of our glorious God,
where mercy met the anger of God's rod.**

**A penalty was paid and pardon bought,
and sinners lost at last to Him were brought.”**

The Bible makes it very clear that salvation stems from God's grace and mercy.

Eph. 2:8-9; Rom 11:32; Titus 3:5-6; Heb 8:12;

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;) and has raised us up together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."
(Eph. 2:4-7;)

God's mercy is rich and abundant as David declares.

"Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count." (Psalm 40:5;)

**He answers our prayers even when we offend Him,
and forgives us freely, we are receiving His mercy.
Since He "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing
that any should perish." (2 Peter 3.9;)**

**He expresses His mercy as He patiently
bears with us in our weaknesses.**

**Because salvation is made possible by God's grace,
it does not rule out man's acceptance
of that grace by faithful obedience. - Hebrews 5:9;**

**Through faith, repentance, confession
and baptism We put on Christ.**

**(John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matt 10:32-33; Mark 16:16; Gal 3:27;)
and become a new creature. (John 3:3-5; Titus 3:5-6;)**

Rom 1:5; “Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to His name.”

Rom 16:26; “Now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they might believe and obey Christ.”

Jesus taught, "For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came from God." (John 16:27;)

In Faithful Obedience, We fallen man have accepted and been saved by the Grace of God.

What difference does **God's mercy** make to us? Paul in Corinthians says

“To us He is the Father of mercies”.

That means in ever aspect of our life, every circumstance, everything that has happened to us, **the God of Mercy is with us!**

**I am told that somewhere in Sicily.
is situated such a geographical place
that the sun is never out of sight, never!**

That's like the mercy of God in our lives, **God's mercy is never absent**, God's mercy is never invisible, it's never empty - and what a humbling thing, **that even in our trials and our tribulations the God of mercy is there with us.**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

We are challenged by the Mercy of God. We who have been shown Mercy ought to show Mercy.
That's what the Lord said in the beatitudes, isn't it?

Matthew 5:7: 'Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy'. James 2:13: 'For he shall have judgment without mercy, that has shown no mercy.'
**If you don't show any mercy in your life,
God will judge you without any mercy.**

**“Be you therefore merciful,
as your Father also is merciful.”**

Luke 6:36; **show mercy one to another!**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

**Because of God's Mercy,
We can go in prayer to God and look at Him,
not in robes of justice and robes of wrath,
but we can see God clad and
arched in a rainbow of mercy.**

**Imagine coming to a God such as that,
a God whose mercy is toward us,
that should add wings to our prayers,
to know that God is so great!**

**God is so mighty, yet God is for us,
He is on OUR SIDE.**

Knowing God - HIS Mercy.

**We ought to come boldly before our God,
knowing that He is merciful.**

**Like the old puritan said, you wouldn't dream
of coming to a fire that was lovely and warm
and wondering was there any warmth in it for you?**

**No - it's blatantly obvious, and it should be
blatantly obvious to us that if we come to God
with a penitent heart we WILL obtain mercy.**

THE GOD WE SERVE

“Made the world and everything in it...”

“is Lord of heaven and earth.”

“Does not dwell in temples made with hands.”

“is Not worshipped with men’s hands...”

“Made from one blood every nation of men.”

“Determined man’s times and the boundaries.”

“He is not far from each of us.”

**“In Him we live and move
and have our very being.”**

“Spirit – Divine Nature.”

THE GOD WE SERVE

Acts 17:30-31; (NKJV)

“Truly, these **times of ignorance**
God overlooked, but now
commands all men everywhere to repent.

Because **He has appointed a day on which**
He will judge the world in righteousness
by the Man whom He has ordained.

He has given assurance of this to all
by raising Him from the dead.”

To have that hope of eternal life:-

We need to BELIEVE In Jesus.

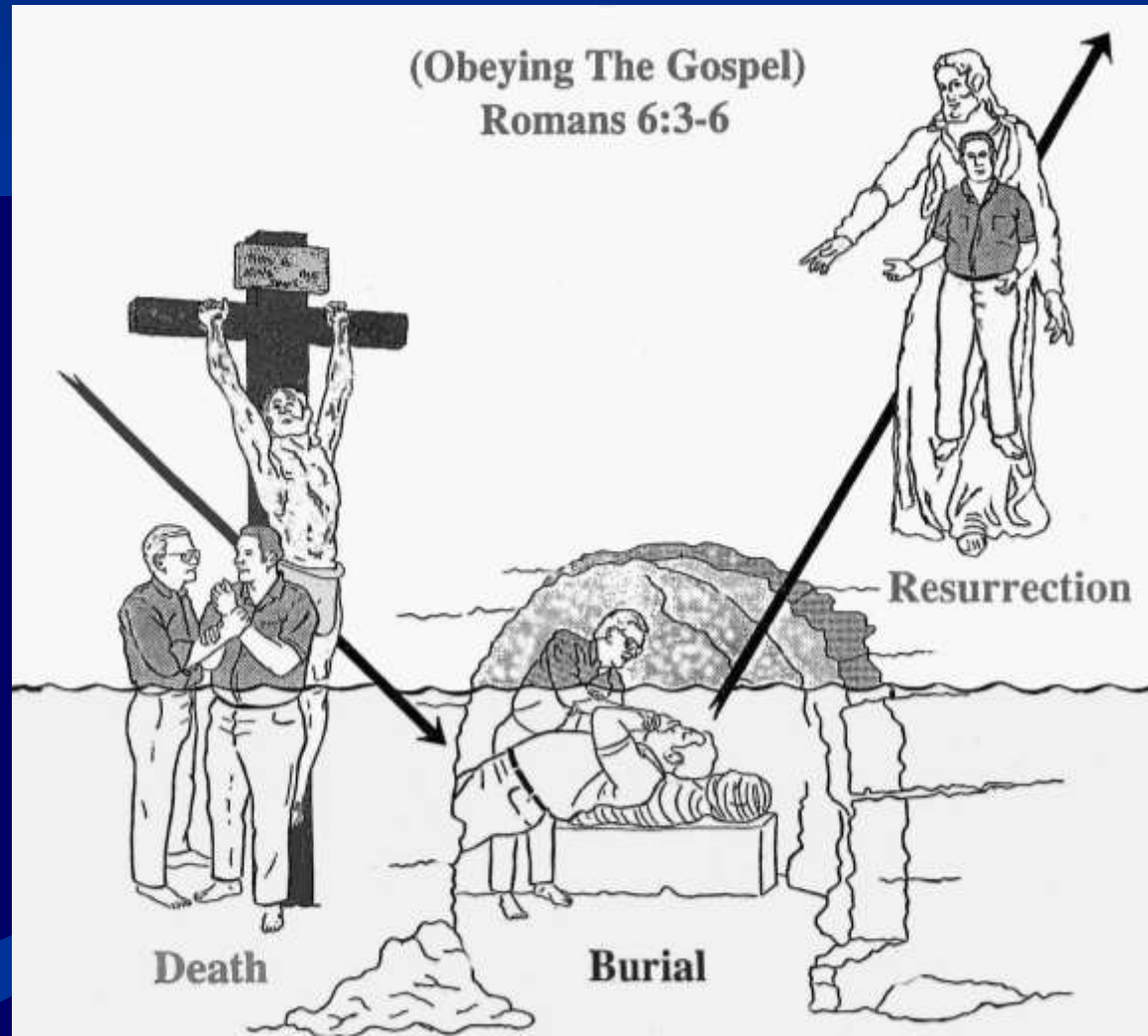
We need to DIE with Jesus.

Be BURIED with Him in Baptism.

If WE are UNITED with Him.

We will be RAISED like Him.

Rom 6:3-4;



What is God Like?

5 of 11

GOD IS MERCIFUL.

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Next in the series:- God Is Holy.