

## American Gospel: Christ Crucified, CHAPTER 2 Additional Notes & Scriptures

### WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES?

To develop spiritual character and strength to face **anything** by ...

1. Learning anchored in Biblical truth but addressing cultural issues
2. Relationships that connect and blossom even outside the meetings

### Ephesians 4:11–16 (ESV)

### WHY AMERICAN GOSPEL: CHRIST CRUCIFIED?

To understand true, Biblical Christianity in a compromising culture.

To identify wrong beliefs we have adopted unwittingly and correct them.

Knowing and living God's truth leads to experiencing Jesus' Abundant Life that sets us free. Satan is constantly fighting against Jesus and His Truth.

There are many good sounding compromises and lies in American Christianity.

The eternal lives of people hang in the balance.

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## CHAPTER 2 – THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### *Why does it matter that we study this stuff?*

- † What we believe determines what we feel and do – it's why theology is important.
- † What we believe about God determines our relationship with Him, how we live in this world and our future destinies/ rewards.

TO THINK ABOUT: have you ever had a person close to you who was fickle, up and down, never knowing what to expect kind of person?

What did you think, feel, do with that person?

How do pagan worshippers approach their gods?

How does God tell us to approach Him as our God?

clip from American Gospel, 48:49 – 50:40

arbitrary: "existing or coming about seemingly at random or by chance or as a capricious and unreasonable act of will" (merriam-webster.com)

If it is not possible to know what God will do (on limited, revealed by Him scale) ... if we cannot rely on unchanging rules and ways of relating to Him, then it not possible to have loving relationship with Him.

If God can be arbitrary, then we never know what to expect, and the Bible is not true when it tells us God is faithful, reliable, never changing,

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." **Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)**

Studying the attributes of God is to get to know Who God is and what God does in relationship.

FORMULA to better understand Who God is and how He reconciles us to Himself.

God is holy, which means ➔

God is just, sovereign, wrathful

+ Love

= provides substitute

➔ reconciliation

We will never comprehend God, Isaiah 55:8-9, but we **must** understand God enough through Him revealing Himself to us enough so that we can truly **know** Him in personal relationship. Thus we must work hard at knowing Him “in spirit and in truth.”

**Introduction to the ATTRIBUTES of God, 23:00 to 25:50**

Paul Washer: “*The Gospel has primarily to do with the attributes of God, not just the sin of man – sin wouldn’t be a problem if I God was like us, but He’s not.*”

### **REDEFINING WORDS: Holy**

Alisa Childers: “... See in progressive Christianity very often is the redefinition of words. They will take words that Christians have historically understood to be defined in a certain way, they will assign them a new definition and then use them in regular conversation as if we all understand the new meaning.”

DQ: Why is redefining words a problem in knowing God and following Christ?

### **God is HOLY, 25:50 -30:50**

**Isaiah 6:1–7 (ESV)**

**1 Peter 1:14–16 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

**Leviticus 11:44 (ESV)** <sup>44</sup>For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

### **God is JUST, 30:50 – 32:45**

**Psalm 7:11 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup>God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

**Psalm 89:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup>Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**Revelation 6:9–11; 20:11–15**

**Romans 12:19 (ESV)** <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, **“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”**

## **God is SOVEREIGN, 32:45 – 36:30**

**Psalm 115:3 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup>Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

**Psalm 135:6 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup>Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

**Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup>The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

## **God is WRATHFUL, 36:30 – 44:20** (incl. Gospel Essentials: Penal Substitution)

**Romans 1:18 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

**Romans 5:9 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

## **“In Christ Alone” Controversy**

Alistair Begg: *“it’s a classic illustration of attempt to contextualize the hard parts of the Bible in such a way as to make people comfortable and at the same time deny the truth of the Gospel*

**John 10:11–18 (ESV)**

## **39:39 – CHALKBOARD ILLUS: Gospel Essentials: Penal Substitution**

Penal = “liable to punishment; involving punishment, penalties” / [merriam-webster.com/dictionary/penal](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/penal)

In penal substitution, the penalty that is due to us for our transgression is paid by a substitute, namely, Jesus Christ. The principle of penal substitution undergirds the old covenant sacrificial system. God told Adam that the penalty for sin was death (**Gen. 2:16–17**). In the old covenant sacrifices, the people placed their hands on the sacrificial animals, thereby identifying with them, and then the animals were put to death (see **Lev. 4**). This **depicted the transfer of sin and guilt from the sinner to the substitute**. The sinner could live because the animal died in the sinner’s place, bearing the punishment the sinner deserved.

But since “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (**Heb. 10:4**), the animal sacrifices of the old covenant did not effect true atonement. They **pointed to the only true atoning sacrifice**, which was offered once for all on Calvary by **our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** (vv. 5–18). This final and only effective act of penal substitution was foreshadowed by the entire old covenant sacrificial system and explicitly predicted in Isaiah 53. The prophet tells us that God laid on the Suffering Servant (Christ) our iniquity (**Isa. 53:6**)—our sin was transferred to Him in the atonement. He was pierced and crushed for our iniquities, “cut off out of the land of the living ... for the transgression of my people” (vv. 4–5, 8). **In other words, Christ endured the punishment His people deserve in their place**. If we trust in Him alone for salvation, we need not fear eternal death, for Jesus bore our sin on the cross so that we will not receive everlasting judgment (v. 10; **John 3:16**).

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/penal-substitution/>

BERGER: *“(God’s attributes) are definitional of Who God is, and we know that God as righteous and just is not because that’s how we like to think about God but because that is how He has revealed Himself in scripture.”*

## **SIMPLICITY of God, 44:20 – 48:49**

**Matthew 5:17–18 (ESV)** <sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

## **LOVE and JUSTICE inextricably linked, Chalkboard illustration, p. 23**

## **Conclusion, 48:49 – 50:40**

James (Detroit): *“If God were able to change, **why should we trust Him? why should we believe the Bible?** When redefine God like that, you have a different one. No longer talking about the same God.”*

## **WRAP-UP**

What are the takeaways?

And why do they matter?

What will I do in response to this teaching?