

## The True and Living God

### Introduction

- A. Many men live the way they do because they do not understand Who and what God is. What man would choose to live out of harmony with God?
- B. God Himself is the standard of truth, love and holiness. Sin is not only a transgression against God it is acting contradictory to His character.

### I. God has Described Himself to us. Exodus 34:6

. . . The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

### II. The Meaning of this Description.

#### A. God is Merciful.

. . . Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause my anger to fall upon you, for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God . . . . Jer. 3:12,13

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. Luke 18:13

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8:12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
I Peter 1:3

#### B. God is Gracious.

Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness . . . . Joel 2:12,13.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.  
II Cor. 9:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

C. God Is Longsuffering.

Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? Romans 2:4

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting. I Timothy 1:16

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longs offering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. II Peter 3:9

D. God is Goodness.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

Oh how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee, which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men. Psalm 31:19

And it shall be to Me a Name of joy, a praise and an honor before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them; and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it. Jer. 33:9

E. God is Truth.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. John 14:6

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. II Thess. 2:13

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. James 5:19,20

Conclusion

We must make a decision to confess our transgressions against God – and choose to live in harmony with His Person.

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