

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of the God of the Bible. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme.

In this eleventh series, the Bible teaches five truths about God's greatness. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: GOD IS ALL-GLORIOUS. We will meditate a new Bible passage, memorise a new Bible verse and then review the previously memorised verses together.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is 1 Chronicles 29:11. We will meditate the truths in the Bible together. Let me read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12. "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hand are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."

The memorisation verse is: God is all-glorious. 1 Chronicles 29:11. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all. 1 Chronicles 29:11.

(T) **What is the greatness, power, glory, majesty and splendour of God?**

In this Bible passage, David praises the incomparable glory of God. He says that everything in heaven and earth belongs to God. The other so-called gods of the nations must be satisfied to rule over a small part of creation only. They are called "gods of the sky, gods of the mountains, gods of the rivers, gods of certain villages or gods of certain religions. But the God of the Bible is the living God and he is above everyone and everything. He rules over every part of creation. Everyone and everything belongs to him! David also says that everything that really has greatness, power, glory, majesty and splendour is his possession alone. All these attributes are as it were *his royal robe*. As King, God rules in every area of greatness, power and splendour. In verse 12, the God of the Bible is described as the only real Source of wealth, of honour, of strength, and of power. He gives these things to whoever he wants. He alone acts completely according to his own desire and will.

The glory of God is especially God's infinite attributes (characteristics) and God's awesome presence. The most important glorious and perfect attributes of God are his spiritual, intellectual, moral and sovereign attributes. Tomorrow we will meditate on God's sovereign attributes.

(S) **First. The glory of God is expressed in his spiritual attributes.**

What are God's spiritual attributes?

In John 4:24 we read, "God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth". God is not *a spirit*; He is the Spirit. God has a Being all on his own and distinct from everything else he created. God has no material body, cannot be seen and is a self-conscious and self-determining Being. Whenever the Bible speaks of God's "hands and feet", "eyes and ears", mouth and nose", then it uses figurative human language to describe the indescribable God. These terms describe the functions of God, not his Being. In 1 Timothy 1:17 and 6:15-16, Paul summarises some of God's spiritual attributes. He says, "God is eternal, immortal, invisible, unapproachable, the only God and only Ruler in the universe!"

(T) **Second. The glory of God is expressed in his intellectual attributes.**

What are God's intellectual attributes? God's glorious and perfect intellectual attributes are his knowledge, his truthfulness and his faithfulness.

One. God's glory is expressed in God's knowledge. In Psalm 94:9-11 we read, "Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see? ...Does he who teaches man lack knowledge? The Lord knows the thoughts of man." *God's knowledge is that he knows himself and all things possible and actual from eternity, immediately and completely.* God knows the universe as it existed in his eternal plan before it existed and as it now exists as a finite reality in time and space. He knows everything that existed in the past and the present and that will exist in the future. He sees everything at once in their totality, while man's knowledge is always gradual and partial. God knows everything in the heart of man and knows everyone of man's ways.

(S) Two. God's glory is expressed in God's truthfulness. In Numbers 23:19 we read, "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?" *God's truthfulness is that he fully corresponds to the idea of the Godhead, is perfectly reliable in his revelation, and sees things as they really are.* God is the Source of all truth: truth about God, truth in the sphere of morals and religion, and truth in every field of scientific endeavour. God's truth is logical, balanced, reasonable and complete.

(T) Three. God's glory is expressed in God's faithfulness.

In 2 Timothy 2:13 we read, "If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself". *God's faithfulness is that he always remembers his covenant and fulfils the promises he made to his people.* God's faithfulness is the ground of the Christian's confidence and saves him from despair. It is the foundation of his hope and gives him the courage to persevere in spite of his failures. It fills his heart with joyful anticipation even when he realises that he does not deserve God's blessings.

(S) Third. The glory of God is expressed in his moral attributes.

What are God's moral attributes? God's glorious and perfect moral attributes are his goodness, holiness and righteousness.

One. God's glory is expressed in God's goodness.

God's goodness is expressed in his care. In Psalm 145:9,15-16 we read, "The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing". *God's goodness is that he is kind and generous to all his creatures.*

God's goodness is expressed in his love. In Romans 5:8 we read, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". *God's love is that he imparts of himself especially to believers, so that they become his children, share in his divine nature and in his eternal future.*

God's goodness is expressed in his grace. In Ephesians 1:6-7 we read that God has freely given his glorious grace to us who believe in Christ. *God's grace is that he bestows his unmerited goodness and love on people who have forfeited these and are by nature under a sentence of condemnation.* God bestows his grace on people who have no claim on it. By grace he proclaims the gospel to them. By grace his Holy Spirit works in their heart to hear the gospel, understand it, believe it and accept it. By grace they receive faith, are justified and inherit eternal salvation.

God's goodness is expressed in his mercy. In Lamentations 3:22-23 we read, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness". God's mercy is also called his compassion or lovingkindness. *God's mercy is that he shows his goodness and love to people who are in misery or distress, even when they do not deserve it or are worth it.*

The difference between grace and mercy is the following: *Grace* is shown to a person who stands guilty before God and needs God's forgiveness. *Mercy* is shown to a person who bears the consequences of sin, is in a pitiable condition and needs God's help. God always exercises his mercy in complete harmony with his justice. He does not show mercy to people who refuse to repent of their sin!

God's goodness is expressed in his patience. In Romans 9:22 we read, "God ... bore with great patience the objects of his wrath". *God's patience is that he bears with the rebellion and wickedness of people in spite of their long continued disobedience.* God's patience means that God postpones the judgement of people who continue to live in sin. God patiently warns them of the coming judgement and admonishes them to repent.

(T) Two. God's glory is expressed in God's holiness.

In Isaiah 57:15 and 21 God says, "This is what the high and lofty one says, he who lives forever, whose name is holy: 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit'. ... There is no peace for the wicked." God's holiness has two aspects: *God's holiness is that he is absolutely transcendental and absolutely moral.*

God's transcendental holiness is expressed in his absolute distinction from all his creatures and his exaltation above them in infinite majesty. God's transcendental holiness means that no one can approach God. It awakens in man a feeling of utter insignificance, a consciousness that he is but a creature, and leads to self-abasement and submission.

God's moral holiness is expressed in his absolute holiness in every attribute that reveals him. He is holy in his goodness, love and grace, and he is holy in his justice, wrath and punishment. God's moral holiness awakens in man a sense of impurity, a consciousness of sin, and leads to repentance and conversion.

(S) Three. God's glory is expressed in God's righteousness.

In James 4:12 we read, "There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and destroy." *God's righteousness is that he maintains himself over against every violation of his holiness and treats every man according to*

what he deserves. Because God is righteous, he has instituted a moral government in the world and imposed a just law upon man, with promises of reward for the obedient and threats of punishment for the transgressors.

(T) Fourth. God's glory is expressed in the kingdom of God.

What is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is God's kingship or sovereign rule. It is recognised in the hearts and operative in the lives of Christians. It effects their complete salvation, their constitution as a Church and finally a redeemed universe.

One. The first aspect of God's kingdom is God's sovereign rule.

In Luke 17:21 Jesus says that the kingdom of God is within you. The rightful place of Jesus Christ, the King of kings, is on the throne of your heart. When he sits on the throne of your heart, then he controls every aspect of your life: how you spend your time and money, with whom you relate, and what goals and plans you give yourself to. When you pray, "Let your kingdom come", you recognise that he is the sovereign ruler and you ask him to sovereignly rule in your heart.

(S) Two. The second aspect of God's kingdom is salvation.

Mark 10:25-26 teaches that *to enter the kingdom* is the same as *to be saved*. And in John 3:5 Jesus says that in order to enter the kingdom of God, you must be born again. Thus the result of God's sovereign rule is your complete salvation. When you pray, "Let your kingdom come", then you pray that God may continue to work out his complete salvation in your life and also save other people from their sins.

(T) Three. The third aspect of God's kingdom is the Church.

In Matthew 16:18-19 Jesus says that he builds his Church on the rock, the apostle Peter, and gives the keys of the kingdom to Peter. Especially Peter became the means by which Jesus built the first historical churches among the Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles. The Church is thus the community of people in whose hearts and lives God is recognised as King. In Matthew 13:37-39 Jesus describes *the kingdom of God in its present earthly form*. He says, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels." Both the visible Church on earth and the Kingdom of God in its present earthly form consist of true Christians and nominal Christians. When you pray, "Your kingdom come", then you pray that God may plant more churches in places where there are no churches yet.

(S) Four. The fourth aspect of God's kingdom is the redeemed universe.

In Matthew 13:41 Jesus says that at his second coming, his angels will root out of his kingdom in its present earthly form everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And in Matthew 25:34 after the last judgement, Jesus the King will say to those at his right hand, "Come ... and take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." *The kingdom of God in its final glorious form* will be the new heaven on the new earth! When you pray, "Let your kingdom come", then you pray that Jesus Christ may soon return to judge all evil and establish his everlasting kingdom of the new heaven on the new earth!

(T) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is "God is all-glorious". Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is 1 Chronicles 29:11. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

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(T) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.
Series “The Christian church”, verses 2-5 and series “God’s greatness”, verse 1.

(S) The activities in the church. Acts 2:42. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42.

(T) The ministries of the church. Ephesians 4:12-13. To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13.

(S) The tasks of church leaders. Acts 20:28. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28.

(T) The glory in the church. Ephesians 3:20-21. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21.

(S) God is incomparable. Isaiah 40:25-26. “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:25-26.

(T) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.