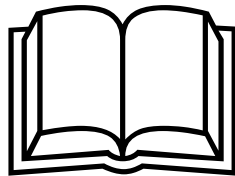


# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

A. W. Pink  
1886-1952



## Study Guide

Course ATR

*“Acquaint now thyself with Him”*

Job 22:21

## Instructions for this course

*(detailed instructions in Appendix 1)*

The *reading material* for this course consists of the paperback book provided with this study guide:

*The Attributes of God*, by A. W. Pink.

Before each lesson: pray for God to give a teachable heart and understanding.



Begin the lesson by reading the related chapter in the book provided.



Answer the questions for the corresponding lesson in this study guide.

*Use the required answer sheet format, putting your name and course information on each sheet (sample after the Table of Contents). Use any standard note paper (or the answer sheets if provided).*

*Try to be as clear and concise as possible.*

*Please do not rush! Meditate on what God wants you to learn.*

*Don't go to the next question until completing the current one.*

***If, and only if,*** you are taking the course as correspondence study (with written feedback from others):

After completing lessons 1 to 6, send the completed answer sheets to your course coordinator. Send again when finished with lessons 7 to 12.

*Only mail your answer sheets, not other materials.*

*All sent answers are handled confidentially.*

*Label the envelope's lower left with: student, course, and lesson numbers.*



Continue taking the course until all lessons are completed.

*Four months are allotted for course completion. Extensions may be granted upon request.*



Your answer sheets are returned to you after review.

*Keep all materials and returned answers together for future reference.*

# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

A. W. Pink

## **Study Guide**

Course ATR

This is the Study Guide for the paperback *The Attributes of God* by A. W. Pink, English-born pastor and writer, who pastored in America and Australia, and spent the last portion of his life writing in Scotland. Each chapter originally appeared in 1930 as a monthly serial article in Pink's life work: *Studies in the Scriptures*.

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# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

## Study Guide

### Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<i>Sample Answer Sheet</i>	
Lesson 1 The Solitariness of God .....	4
Lesson 2 Decrees and Knowledge of God .....	6
Lesson 3 Foreknowledge & Supremacy .....	8
Lesson 4 God's Sovereignty & Immutability .....	11
Lesson 5 The Holiness of God.....	12
Lesson 6 The Power of God.....	14
Lesson 7 The Faithfulness of God .....	15
Lesson 8 Goodness and Patience of God .....	16
Lesson 9 The Grace and Mercy of God .....	18
Lesson 10 God's Love .....	20
Lesson 11 The Wrath of God.....	22
Lesson 12 The Contemplation of God .....	23
 <i>Appendices</i>	
<i>Are You Born Again?</i> .....	25
<i>1. Detailed Course Instructions</i> .....	28
<i>2. Other Courses from Mount Zion</i> .....	<i>inside back cover</i>
<i>About Mount Zion Bible Institute</i> .....	<i>back cover</i>

# Sample Answer Sheet

_____	_____	<u>ATR</u>	_____	_____
Your name	Student number	Course number	Lesson number	Date

Question    Answer

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# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Course ATR

## Study Guide

This Study Guide is based on the paperback *The Attributes of God* by A. W. Pink.

Please answer the questions below from the information given in the paperback text. Each chapter in the paperback corresponds to the lesson you are doing. For example, the information you need to answer the questions from lesson one in this Study Guide is found in chapter one in the paperback. Before you begin the questions, please read the paperback's chapter for the lesson you are taking.

Please read slowly enough so you understand what you read. It is also always good to pray before each lesson, asking the LORD for wisdom to apply what you learn to your life—and to enable you to love Him with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength... for this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30).

***Response questions*** are intended to support a clear understanding of the attributes of God. Please use your own words.

***Reflection questions*** go much deeper to ask you to evaluate and integrate the information with the scriptures and with overall trends. These questions are important: please make your best effort to answer them, but please also realize there are no right or wrong answers. We are looking only for your best effort.

***Making It Personal questions*** bring the biblical principles into practical application. The goal here is change in your own life toward godliness. Again, there are no right or wrong answers; we are looking only for your honesty with yourself in personal commitments.

# Lesson 1 The Solitariness of God

*First please read chapter 1 in the book.*

1. Please commit to make time daily, for the duration of your taking this course, to quietly contemplate the attributes of God in a private place. Indicate on your answer sheet where and when will be your normal practice for such devotions.

## RESPONSE

*Before all else*

2. “In the beginning God...” In your own words, explain what this means regarding God’s *solitariness*.

**Very Important Note:** We ask you to always use your own words in your answers. The answers to the Response questions are found in the textbook, but please do not merely quote the book for your answer. Rather, read what the text says, think about the meaning of what it says, and summarize its meaning in your own words for your answer. In this way, you will learn much more than simply a “search/find/quote” method for answering the questions.

*His sovereign will*

3. Why did God choose to create? Please include the key point of the Scripture passage in your answer.

*[Note: by key point we mean the basic meaning of the pertinent phrase in the verse. Please do not merely quote the verse, but rather paraphrase the meaning of the main point of the verse in your own words.]*

4. Does God gain anything from our existence, our worship, or our obedience? Why?
5. Why did God *predestinate* His *elect*? Include the key point of the Scripture passage in your answer.

*[Note: predestinate means to predetermine for a specific destiny; His elect means the people whom God has sovereignly chosen out of all fallen people to become His own children.]*

*By revelation*

6. a. Can God be found by searching? Why?  
b. How is God found?
7. Can God be known by one’s own intellect? Why?
8. a. How can men know God?



- b. Write the reference and key point for each of the four Scripture passages mentioned:
- John 3:3
  - 1 Cor. 2:14
  - 2 Cor. 4:6
  - 2 Peter 3:18

## **REFLECTION**

9. In your efforts to comprehend God, in what ways do you try to make God conform to human behaviors? Read Romans 11:34-35 and respond.
10. What is the difference between God's glory and God's *manifestative* glory? (Refer to the section: *His sovereign will*.)  
*[In the section His sovereign will, Pink describes God as 'complete,' and therefore without being added to by the work of Christ. Please understand that everywhere Pink exalts Christ as God, as the Second Person of the Trinity, and as Deity who took on human form. Pink's comments are intended to exalt the Godhead as a whole, not diminish Christ.]*
11. The Scripture says "God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). Some interpret this to mean that God was incomplete without us, that He somehow needed us for fellowship, and that His giving Christ for us shows us that we have value and 'worth.' In light of this chapter, what would you say to this idea?

## **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

12. Read all of the scripture passages discussed in the text. In what ways have you discovered new attributes of God's awe-inspiring, worship-provoking grandeur?
13. What is the principle prayer and aim of a Christian? (See the last paragraph of the chapter.) Will you memorize Colossians 1:10?

## Lesson 2 Decrees and Knowledge of God

### *The Decrees of God*

*First please read chapter 2 in the book.*

#### RESPONSE

##### *The decrees of God*

1. a. Explain, in your own words, what is meant by *the decree of God*.  
b. Why is it spoken of in the singular form.
2. a. List the ways in which Scripture refers to the decrees of God and include the Scripture reference for each.  
b. Why are God's decrees called His *counsel* and His *will*?
3. Explain a) to what and b) to whom God's decrees apply.

##### *Properties of divine decrees*

4. List and briefly explain each of the four properties of God's decrees. Include for each property the reference and the key point for each of the Scriptures used.

*[Note: by key point we mean the basic meaning of the pertinent phrase in the verse. Do not merely quote the verse, but rather paraphrase the meaning of the main point of the verse in your own words.]*

##### *Man's responsibility*

5. a. What does Scripture teach regarding man's responsibility?  
b. What effect does Scripture have on how man chooses to behave?

#### REFLECTION

6. a. Read again the first section, *The decrees of God*. Spend some quiet time considering the awesome implications of God's decree. How does the knowledge of God's decree effect your understanding of God?  
b. Will your relationship with God change as a result of this knowledge? Explain.

#### MAKING IT PERSONAL

7. Read the last paragraph in chapter 2. Contemplate the ways in which your life would be different if God's divine decree did not exist. Explain your findings.

## ***The Knowledge of God***

*First please read chapter 3 in the book. [ Note: it is not necessary to complete an entire lesson in one sitting. If you have just completed the first part of Lesson 2, we suggest to take a break, and start here in your next study time.]*

### **RESPONSE**

#### *God's omniscience*

8. What does it mean that God is *omniscient*? Please explain in your own words. Include the reference and the key point for each of the Scripture passages with your answer.
9. Why would those who reject Christ have reason to tremble? Refer to the Scriptures provided.
10. List the situations in which God's omniscience brings comfort to the believer. Include the Scripture references and key points provided for each.
11. How is prayer affected by God's omniscience?

#### *Past and future*

12. a. What does the *divine knowledge of the future* mean?  
b. Can something occur apart from God's permission? Why?  
c. The text states that what God has designed is guaranteed to occur. Please explain.
13. How is the *perfect knowledge of God* illustrated?
14. What is the *cause* that brings things to pass?
15. In the last paragraph of chapter 3, Pink invites the reader to experience three specific responses to God's infinite wisdom. List and briefly explain each of these three responses.

### **REFLECTION**

16. Re-read the second paragraph of the chapter. Take a few minutes to meditate on one of God's attributes. As you conclude your quiet time, notice whether you are experiencing a sense of adoration and worship, or if you feel uneasy in some way. Respond with your findings.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

17. a. How has your understanding of God changed as a result of the truths presented in this chapter?

- b. How will these changes in your understanding affect your personal relationship with Him?

## Lesson 3 Foreknowledge & Supremacy

### *The Foreknowledge of God*

*First please read Chapter 4 in the book.*

#### RESPONSE

##### *Error dispelled*

1. Pink tells us that there is only one safeguard in avoiding error regarding the *meaning* and *scope* of the foreknowledge of God.
  - a. What is that safeguard?
  - b. How is it accomplished?
2.
  - a. What false theology does the enemy use in defining *foreknowledge*?
  - b. Why is the enemy's statement wrong?

##### *Truth proclaimed*

3.
  - a. What does Scripture proclaim about God's foreknowledge with regard to salvation? Include the Scripture reference and key point.  
*Remember, by key point we refer to the meaning behind the words. Do not just copy the verse, but think over what it means in relation to the theme of the question. Write that meaning in your own words.*
  - b. Explain the difference between the truth of God's 'election' and a false conception of foreknowledge.
4.
  - a. When the word *know* is used in the Old Testament, what does it signify and denote?
  - b. List the Old Testament Scripture references that illustrate this and include the key point of each.  
*The key point here would include the meaning of "know" (from the answer to question 4a), overlaid onto the use of "know" in each verse. A useful technique to identify the key point is to read the verse and replace the word "know" with the answer to question 4a.*
  - c. List the New Testament Scripture references that illustrate this and include the key point of each.

### *Foreknowledge defined*

5. When *foreknowledge* is used in Scripture:
  - a. What does it never refer to?
  - b. What does it always refer to?
  - c. List the Scripture references where God is said “to foreknow” and describe the key point of each.
6.
  - a. How can God *foreknow*?
  - b. On what basis does God elect certain people?
7. What is the plain truth of Romans 8:29?
8. Did God elect a sinner because He foresaw that the sinner would believe? Why?

### **REFLECTION**

9. Re-read the second to last paragraph of this chapter (beginning with the words, “Surely God’s Word...”) Reflect upon the fact that belief in God does not originate in your own doing, but in God’s grace.  
Does this change your understanding of how God has worked in your life? Explain.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

10. Please meditate on Eph. 1:4 and the following sentence which appears near the end of the chapter. “If then (the reader) be a real Christian, (he) is so because God chose (him) in Christ before the foundation of the world, and chose not because He foresaw (you) *would* believe, but chose simply because it pleased Him to choose (you).”  
If you have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then please write out this sentence with your name inserted where the parentheses appear.  
Consider this awesome gift. Spend some time in prayer expressing your response to Him.

## ***The Supremacy of God***

*First please read chapter 5 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*Most do not know Him*

11. Describe some of the things “men imagine about the Most High” and how they are different than reality.

*King of kings and Lord of lords*

12. “The absolute and universal supremacy of God is plainly and positively affirmed in many Scriptures.” List the Scripture references and the key point of each (in your own words).

*Whatsoever the Lord pleased*

13. “God’s supremacy over the works of His hands is vividly depicted in Scripture.” List those Scripture references and give the key point of each.
14. “God’s supremacy is also demonstrated in His perfect rule over the wills of men.” List the Scripture references and give the key point of each.
15. “But, it may be objected, do we not read in Scripture how that men defied God?” What is the author’s answer to this objection?

**REFLECTION**

16. At the beginning of the chapter, Pink discusses the results that occur when people don’t really *know* the God of the Scriptures. Read Ps. 50:21 and then spend a few minutes reviewing the ways in which you think about the most Holy God and His abilities.

Did you discover that your thoughts of God are too “human?” Explain.

**MAKING IT PERSONAL**

17. In the last paragraph of this chapter, Pink points out that the supremacy of God provides the real Christian with assurance, strength, and comfort. Is your heart resting in the security of knowing that all of your life is in His hands? Write your thoughts.

# Lesson 4 God's Sovereignty & Immutability

## *The Sovereignty of God*

*First please read chapter 6 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

#### *God's sovereignty defined*

1. Explain, in your own words, the meaning of the *sovereignty* of God. Include the Scripture references and the key point of each.
2. List three specific aspects of the sovereignty of God mentioned and include the Scripture reference and key point.

#### *Human responsibility and divine sovereignty*

3. In Psalm 115:3 we learn that God does whatsoever He pleases. Consequently, God sovereignly chooses to place each of His creatures on a particular footing that seems good in His sight. Please list the three examples given that discuss conditional footing.
4.
  - a. Where does creature responsibility begin?
  - b. Is there an end to God's sovereignty?
5.
  - a. What kind of footing did God ordain for His elect, and what benefits does this footing include?
  - b. How did the elect obtain this righteous position?
  - c. Can a true believer lose his salvation when he sins? Why?

### **REFLECTION**

6. Read again the quote from Charles Haddon Spurgeon at the beginning of the chapter. Spurgeon states that believers proclaim an enthroned God and His right to do as He wills with His children. Are there any areas in your life that you have not fully surrendered to God? Take a few minutes to reflect upon this and pray, and then write your thoughts about the steps you will take in your response to the God who rules.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

7. Spurgeon states (toward the beginning of his quotation) that when trials and afflictions occur, God's children believe that God's sovereignty reigns and that His sovereignty will sanctify them. Has the study of this chapter clarified and expanded your understanding of this? Please explain.

## ***The Immutability of God***

*First please read chapter 7 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*God is distinguished from His creatures*

8. What does *the immutability of God* mean? Please explain in your own words and include the reference and key point for each of the Scriptures mentioned.

*Aspects of God's immutability*

9. List the three aspects of God's immutability and include the reference and key point of each Scripture.

*Can human beings be depended upon?*

10. As fallen creatures, we are mutable [i.e., prone to change] and are opposed to God. List the Scripture references and the key point of each that describes this condition of human beings.

*Where to fix our feet*

11. In your own words, please explain the term '*solid comfort*.' Include the Scripture passage.
12. Why and how do we pray to One whose will is already fixed?
13. What is meant by the phrase *terror for the wicked*?

### **REFLECTION**

14. At the beginning of the section *Can human beings be depended upon?*, Pink discusses the issue of our own nothingness in the presence of God and our dependency upon Him for every breath we draw. Spend some quiet time contemplating the truth of this, as it is opposed by a world that encourages you to *take charge* and *be independent*. Do you find freedom in the face of your nothingness? Please explain.

## **Lesson 5 The Holiness of God**

*First please read chapter 8 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*Only God is holy*

1. List the Scripture references that express God's holiness, and the key point of each (in your own words).



2. a. What does Scripture tell us about how God views His own holiness? Include the Scripture reference and key point.
- b. What does Scripture exhort the saints to do? Include the reference with your answer.

*The manifestation of God's holiness*

3. List the three ways in which God's holiness is manifested. Along with your answers, please include Scripture references and key points.

*God's holiness from a worldly perspective*

4. a. Do the unregenerate believe in God's holiness? Explain.
- b. Explain Psalm 50:21 in your own words.
5. What is it that most fully reveals the depravity of man's heart?
6. How does the unregenerate person view sin?
7. How do the vast majority of professing Christians view their "god?"
8. What does the Word say about God's view of sin? List Scripture references and key points.
9. Can man gain acceptance with God through "creaturely doing" (i.e., good works)? Why?

*Mankind redeemed*

10. God's holiness demands righteousness. What did His grace provide unto us?
11. If you as a poor sinner flee to Jesus Christ for refuge, what will be your standing before God? Include Scripture and key point.

*Man approaches God*

12. With what attitude must we approach the holy God? Include references and key points with your answer.

**REFLECTION**

13. At the beginning of the chapter, Pink states that it is specifically God's holiness that "renders Him lovely" to those who know Him as Lord and Savior. If this is true of your life, please set aside quiet time to think about some of the ways in which God's holiness is rendered especially lovely in your relationship with Him. Write your thoughts.

## MAKING IT PERSONAL

14. In the last paragraph of the chapter, Pink discusses that we should desire to be *conformed to Him*. Please read 1 Peter 1:15-16. Are there areas in your life that are in need of being *conformed to Him*? Please write your findings. Will you surrender these areas into His perfect will today?

## Lesson 6 The Power of God

*First please read chapter 9 in the book.*

### RESPONSE

*Establishing a correct concept of God's power*

1. Read again the quote from Stephen Charnock. In your own words, please explain the power of God.
2. Explain why God needs only to speak once. Include Scripture references and key points.
3.
  - a. Where did power originate?
  - b. Who does power belong to at this time in history? Briefly explain your answer.
  - c. How does man acquire power?

*God's power and man's pride*

4. Is God dependent upon His creation in any way? Include the Scripture reference.

*The hiding of God's power*

5. Explain, in your own words, what *the hiding of His power* means. Include the Scripture reference and key point.

*The immensity of God's power*

6. List the Scripture references and key points that tell of the variety of places which are under God's feet.
7. List the Scripture references and key points that explain how God made all things.
8. Why is God called the preserver of man and beast? Include Scripture references and key points with your answer.
9. Explain the two ways in which God's power in government is manifested, including the Scripture references and key points.

10. What events in Scripture illustrate God's power in judgment?

### **REFLECTION**

11. Select one of the aspects of God's power that you found most awe-inspiring in this lesson. Will your relationship with God change in any way as a result of your understanding of this attribute? Explain.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

12. Please read again the last three paragraphs of this chapter.
- What three actions does Pink exhort the saints to demonstrate?
  - Please write your thoughts about the way in which these activities can be manifested in your own personal worship of God.

## **Lesson 7 The Faithfulness of God**

*First please read chapter 10 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*Faithful in all things, at all times*

- The Scriptures proclaim God's faithfulness to those who believe on Him. List the references and the key point of each Scripture that confirms this awesome assurance.
- Why is God's faithfulness expressed nearly everywhere in Scripture?

*When difficulties occur*

- When your faith in God is over-shadowed by troubles, sadness, or difficulties, what does Isaiah 50:10 commend you to do?
- When you are tempted to doubt God's faithfulness, what should be your cry and what should you do?
- God's "testimonies... are faithful" - Ps. 119:138. He has faithfully testified about difficult times that will come to pass. What four aspects are mentioned?

*Faithfulness demonstrated*

- In what three ways is God faithful unto His people? Along with your answer, please include Scriptures references and key points.

7. How do we acknowledge God's chastisement that is wielded by His faithfulness.

*Faith in God's faithfulness*

8. What three benefits are realized when God's faithfulness is clearly understood? Include Scriptures when provided.

### **REFLECTION**

9. Acting upon the faithfulness of God is discussed in the last paragraph of the first section, *Faithful in all things, in all times*. Read this paragraph again, and then think about God's faithfulness in respect to your personal expectations. Are you trusting in God's promises for your life? Please explain.
10. Think of a time when your faith was sorely tried in a difficult or troubling situation. What was your reaction to the situation; did you call upon the Lord and wait upon Him to reveal His light? Write your observations and your thoughts.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

11. a. Do you believe that afflictions are necessary for those who have made Jesus the Lord of their life? Why?  
b. When afflictions occur in the future, what will be your attitude? What will you do? Explain.

## **Lesson 8 Goodness and Patience of God**

### ***The Goodness of God***

*First please read chapter 11 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*God's goodness revealed.*

1. List several of the characteristics of God's goodness, along with Scripture references and key points when provided.
2. In what is God's goodness seen? Please include Scriptures and key points.

*Praise the Lord for His goodness*

3. a. What is the just return to God for His rich goodness?  
b. Why is it often withheld?

## ***The Patience of God***

*First please read chapter 12 in the book.*

*God's patience prevails*

4. What is the definition of *divine patience*? Include Scripture and key point.
5. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word for *divine longsuffering*? List two Scriptures where this usage appears.
6. What are the three reasons that God is called the God of patience? Include Scripture references and key points when provided.

*God's patience – then and now*

7. How is the patience of God manifested? Please include examples and Scriptures.

*The school of holy experience*

8.
  - a. What is the meaning of the *patience of the saints*?
  - b. What does Scripture direct the saints to do?
  - c. What does Christ exhort the saints to do in the context of this Scripture?

### **REFLECTION**

9. Refer to the last paragraph of the chapter and the quote. Consider the unparalleled assurance that God provides when we trust in His goodness. Spend some time in prayerful conversation with the Lord, praising and thanking Him for His steadfast goodness.

As a result of this lesson, do you feel a sense of renewal regarding a specific issue or situation that you face in your life? Write your thoughts.

10. If God were omnipotent and sovereign but not *good*, what would be the consequences?

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

11. Pink suggests that we lose much if we do not frequently meditate on the patience of God. Take some time to think about one or two instances where God has been patient with you recently, and then write about what occurred.

Did you realize, at the time, that God's patience prevailed in the situation? Please explain. Will you take time to meditate on God's patience frequently in the future?

# Lesson 9 The Grace and Mercy of God

## *The Grace of God*

*First please read chapter 13 in the book.*

### RESPONSE

*A perfection of the divine character*

1. a. Who are the recipients of grace?  
b. How and on what basis is grace bestowed?  
c. What is meant when a thing is said to be of “grace?”
2. What issue does Paul discuss in opposition to grace, and what is his key point? Please write out the two Scripture verses with your answer.
3. What are the three characteristics of divine grace? Include Scripture references and key points.

*God’s sovereign selection*

4. What does the Lord declare in Ex. 33:19 regarding His gift of unmerited favor?
5. a. What is the meaning of the phrase, “the distinguishing grace of God?”  
b. What does “distinguishing grace” do?
6. How is the grace of God manifested? Include Scripture reference and key point.
7. a. Why is the grace of God a “stumbling block” and “foolishness” to some people?  
b. What does Scripture say about the state of man’s condition without God’s grace?  
c. What is man’s only hope?
8. Please explain the identity of the following:
  - a. The Communicator and Bestower of grace. Also explain what He does.
  - b. The Fountain of all grace
  - c. The Channel of grace
  - d. The Publisher of grace

### REFLECTION

9. Read again the quote from James Hervey in the section *God’s sovereign selection*, which is a rich example of God’s grace in

action. Has your understanding of the grace of God changed as a result of this lesson? Please explain.

## ***The Mercy of God***

*First please read chapter 14 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*God's mercy originates in His goodness*

10. List the three types of mercies provided by God. Include the Scripture references and key points.

*The bestowing of His mercy*

11. a. How are God's mercies which are extended to the wicked, different from those extended to believers?
- b. In Psalms 116:5, Scripture affirms that "His mercy endureth forever." Please clarify this in consideration of the preceding answer.
12. a. What determines the exercise of God's mercy? Include Scripture reference and key point.
- b. Is God influenced by man in the exercise of His mercy? Why? Include Scripture reference and key point.

[Note: We also know that God listens and responds to our prayers. How this goes together with His sovereign mercy is a mystery, beyond our understanding. "His ways are higher than our ways."]

*Who shall receive God's mercies*

13. Please explain the three points of view regarding the punishment of the wicked.
14. Explain what is meant that God will not be *unjust* to Himself. Include Scripture references and key points.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

15. Read again the first and last paragraphs of this lesson. Make a list of God's spiritual mercies that are given to His people. Along with each mercy, please write your own personal response (comments of praise, petition and/or personal thoughts).

## Lesson 10 God's Love

### *The Lovingkindness of God*

*First please read chapter 15 in the book.*

#### RESPONSE

*The innumerable blessings on the Christian*

1. What are some of the “evidences and exercises” of God’s *loving-kindness* unto the saints? Include the Scripture references and key points with your answer.
2. a. Can God’s lovingkindness ever be removed from His children, even when He appears distant? Why?  
b. What does Scripture tell us about God’s response to the saints when they do not keep His commandments? With your answer, include Scripture references and key points.
3. How was the covenant ratified and what did it provide? Include the Scripture provided.

*The response of the saints*

4. In response to God’s lovingkindness, what are the seven responses that should fill the hearts of the saints? With your answers, include Scripture references and key points.

### *The Love of God*

*First please read chapter 16.*

#### RESPONSE

*The nature of God*

5. What three things does Scripture tell us about the nature of God?

*The character and blessedness of God’s love*

6. What does it mean that God is *uninfluenced*?
7. What does it mean that God’s love is *eternal*? Please explain and include Scripture references and key points.
8. Does God love whom He pleases? Why? Include Scriptures and key points with your answer.
9. How are God’s essence, wisdom, power, and love related?
10. What are the key points about God’s love that the following verses proclaim?  
- James 1:17



- John 13:1
- Song of Solomon 8:6-7
- Romans 8:35-39.

11. Because God is holy, how does He respond to the sin of the saints? Include Scripture and key point.
12. a. What does Calvary demonstrate?  
b. If a saint is tempted to doubt the love of God, the remembrance of what event should quench those doubts? Please write out the Scripture verse that supports this.

### **REFLECTION**

13. Please read again the last paragraph of the chapter. Spend some quiet time reflecting upon the fact that Christ was beloved of the Father, yet was not exempt from trials and tribulations. Then, think about your own personal experiences with trials and afflictions.
  - a. What were your responses in these situations? Did you feel abandoned by God?
  - b. As a result of this lesson, will your attitude be different when these kinds of situations occur in the future? Explain.

### ***The Love of God to Us***

*First please read chapter 17 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*The operations of God's love*

14. List the four operations of God's love toward us, including Scripture references and key points.

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

15. In the last paragraph of the chapter, Pink exhorts the reader to "let God's love daily engage your mind." In response to this exhortation, select two or three Scripture verses pertaining to God's love that especially touch your heart. Write these verses on 3 x 5 cards, memorize them, and recite them frequently during the week ahead.

At the end of the week, please record how these verses impacted any difficulties you experienced this week. What are the verses?

# Lesson 11 The Wrath of God

*First please read chapter 18 in the book.*

## RESPONSE

*God does not conceal the facts*

1. In your own words, explain what God says about His vengeance and fury toward sin. Include the Scripture reference.
2. Is God's wrath a divine perfection? Explain.
3. What is God's response to evil and unrighteousness?
4. Why is God angry against sin?
5. a. What does God's Word say about where His wrath is revealed? Include the Scripture reference.  
b. What is the prime example of God's wrath originating from this place?

*The importance of reflecting upon God's wrath*

6. List the three reasons why it is necessary to meditate frequently on God's divine wrath toward sin. Include Scripture references and key points with your answer.
7. How is a reluctance to meditate on God's wrath a true test of one's attitude?
8. What is the danger in devising an image of God according to our own inclination? Include Scriptures and key points.

*God's justice exercised through his wrath*

9. a. Why will God's people be full of rejoicing one day? Include Scriptures and key points.  
b. What will the Lord do in that day?
10. a. What question does Pink implore the reader to ask? Include Scripture references and key points.  
b. Have you fled for refuge to Christ, the only Savior? Have you responded to the warning in Matt. 3:7 -- "flee from the wrath to come?" If so, when? If not, why not?

## REFLECTION

11. Take a few minutes to review this lesson. Did you discover, as a result of this study, that your attitude toward God's wrath was something other than scriptural? Explain.

## **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

12. In the section “God does not conceal the facts,” Pink points out that there are more references in Scripture about God’s anger, fury, and wrath than there are about His love and tenderness. If possible, refer to your concordance to select two or three Scriptures concerning God’s anger, fury, or wrath that are important to you. Write out these verses and include your thoughts about each one.

## **Lesson 12 The Contemplation of God**

*First please read chapter 19 in the book.*

### **RESPONSE**

*The divine nature*

1. a. When we contemplate all God’s attributes, what should be evident to us about Him?  
b. What does Scripture say about this?

*The study of the Deity*

2. In your own words, explain why we should earnestly pursue a greater knowledge and understanding of God, even though our thoughts become lost in His immensity.
3. What should be the primary study of the Christian and what does this study involve?
4. Why does the contemplation of the Divinity improve the mind?
5. In their glorified state, will Christians know God as fully as He knows them? Explain.
6. What is the second aspect of God’s Being which we can conclude from a review of His perfections? Explain it briefly, and include Scripture references and key points.

*His lovingkindness is better than life*

7. What does true happiness consist of? Include Scripture references and key points.
8. What does Hab. 3:17-18 say about the Christian who thinks rightly?

*The God of creation*

9. What is the third conclusion we can make about God from a review of His perfections? Explain in your own words how this perfection is manifested. Please include the Scripture provided.
10. Does the creature have rights? Explain
11. List the ways in which God exercises His sovereignty according to His own imperial and righteous pleasure.

**REFLECTION**

12. To those who know Jesus Christ as Lord, God is a tender Father. Take some time to reflect upon what this means to you personally, and then write your thoughts.

**MAKING IT PERSONAL**

13. Take some time briefly to review all 12 lessons of this study. Consider the new understanding you may have gained about the most Holy God and the heart changes you may have experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit. Please write your thoughts.
14. If you have never turned from sin to turn to God, read the following article by J. C. Ryle (British pastor and author). What is your response?

*Thank you for taking this course.  
Please write now for your next course  
to continue your studies of God's Word.*

# *Are You Born Again?*

by J. C. Ryle (1816 – 1900)

This is one of life's most important questions. Jesus Christ said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). It is not enough to reply, "I belong to the church; I suppose I'm a Christian." Thousands of nominal Christians show none of the signs of being born again which the Scriptures have given us—many listed in the *First Epistle of John*.

## **No Habitual Sinning**

*First* of all, John wrote: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (1 John 3:9). "Whosoever is born of God sinneth not" (5:18). A person who has been born again, or regenerated, does not habitually commit sin. He no longer sins with his heart and will and whole inclination. There was probably a time when he did not think about whether his actions were sinful or not, and he did not always feel grieved after doing evil. There was no quarrel between him and sin; they were friends. But the true Christian hates sin, flees from it, fights against it, considers it his greatest plague, resents the burden of its presence, mourns when he falls under its influence, and longs to be completely delivered from it. Sin no longer pleases him, nor is it even a matter of indifference to him; it has become a horrible thing which he hates. However, he cannot eliminate its presence within him.

If he said that he had no sin, he would be lying (1 John 1:8). But he can say that he hates sin and that the great desire of his soul is not to commit sin at all. He cannot prevent bad thoughts from entering his mind, or shortcomings, omissions, and defects from appearing in both his words and his actions. He knows that "in many things we offend all" (James 3:2). But he can truly say, in the sight of God, that these things cause him grief and sorrow and that his whole nature does not consent to them. What would the apostle say about you? Are you born again?

## **Believing in Christ**

*Second*, John wrote: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (1 John 5:1). A man who is born again, or regenerated, believes that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour who can pardon his soul, that He is the divine person appointed by God the Father for this very purpose,

and beside Him there is no Saviour at all. In himself he sees nothing but unworthiness. But he has full confidence in Christ, and trusting in Him, he believes that his sins are all forgiven. He believes that, because he has accepted Christ's finished work and death on the cross, he is considered righteous in God's sight, and he may look forward to death and judgment without alarm.

He may have fears and doubts. He may sometimes tell you that he feels as if he had no faith at all. But ask him if he is willing to trust in anything instead of Christ, and see what he will say. Ask him if he will rest his hope of eternal life on his own goodness, his own works, his prayers, his minister, or his church, and listen to his reply. What would the apostle say about you? Are you born again?

### **Practicing Righteousness**

*Third*, John wrote: "Every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him" (1 John 2:29). The man who is born again, or regenerated, is a holy man. He endeavors to live according to God's will, to do the things that please God and to avoid the things that God hates. He wishes to continually look to Christ as his example as well as his Saviour and to prove himself to be Christ's friend by doing whatever He commands. He knows he is not perfect. He is painfully aware of his indwelling corruption. He finds an evil principle within himself that is constantly warring against grace and trying to draw him away from God. But he does not consent to it, though he cannot prevent its presence. Though he may sometimes feel so low that he questions whether or not he is a Christian at all, he will be able to say with John Newton, "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am." What would the apostle say about you? Are you born again?

### **Loving Other Christians**

*Fourth*, John wrote: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). A man who is born again has a special love for all true disciples of Christ. Like his Father in heaven, he loves all men with a great general love, but he has a special love for those who share his faith in Christ. Like his Lord and Saviour, he loves the worst of sinners and could weep over them; but he has a peculiar love for those who are believers. He is never so much at home as when he is in their company.

He feels they are all members of the same family. They are his fellow soldiers, fighting against the same enemy. They are his fellow travelers, journeying along the same road. He understands them, and they under-

stand him. They may be very different from himself in many ways—in rank, in station and in wealth. But that does not matter. They are his Father’s sons and daughters and he cannot help loving them. What would the apostle say about you? Are you born again?

### **Overcoming the World**

*Fifth*, John wrote: “Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world” (1 John 5:4). A man who is born again does not use the world’s opinion as his standard of right and wrong. He does not mind going against the world’s ways, ideas and customs. What men think or say no longer concerns him. He overcomes the love of the world. He finds no pleasure in things which seem to bring happiness to most people. To him they seem foolish and unworthy of an immortal being. He loves God’s praise more than man’s praise. He fears offending God more than offending man. It is unimportant to him whether he is blamed or praised; his first aim is to please God. What would the apostle say about you? Are you born again?

### **Keeping Oneself Pure**

*Sixth*, John wrote: “He that is begotten of God keepeth himself” (1 John 5:18). A man who is born again is careful of his own soul. He tries not only to avoid sin but also to avoid everything which may lead to it. He is careful about the company he keeps. He knows that evil communications corrupt the heart and that evil is more catching than good, just as disease is more infectious than health. He is careful about the use of his time; his chief desire is to spend it profitably. He desires to live like a soldier in an enemy country—to wear his armor continually and to be prepared for temptation. He is diligent to be a watchful, humble, prayerful man. What would the apostle say about you? Are you born again?

### **The Test**

These are the six great marks of a born again Christian. There is a vast difference in the depth and distinctness of these marks in different people. In some they are faint and hardly noticeable. In others they are bold, plain and unmistakable, so anyone may read them. Some of these marks are more visible than others in each individual. Seldom are all equally evident in any one person. But still, after every allowance, here we find boldly painted six marks of being born of God.

How should we react to these things? We can logically come to only one conclusion—only those who are born again have these six characteristics, and those who do not have these marks are not born again. This seems to be the conclusion to which the apostle intended us to come. Do you have these characteristics? *Are you born again?* ❧

# Appendix One: Detailed Course Instructions

*If more detail is helpful, please read the following instructions before you begin. These will explain the method of study and guidelines to use toward the completion of this course. Please follow these instructions carefully.*

*If you have any questions that the instructions do not answer, please contact your local coordinator (or Mount Zion Bible Institute).*

## 1. *Procedure for Taking the Course*

- a. The *reading material* for this course consists of the book provided with this study guide.
- b. Before you begin a lesson, please read completely the corresponding chapter in the related book.
- c. After reading the appropriate chapter, answer the related questions for that lesson in this study guide. The lessons in this course are “open book” exercises. This method of study often enhances learning by removing unnecessary pressure.  
In addition, some questions ask for a *personal response*, where the answer will not be found in the reading material. In this case, we ask only for your honesty and best effort.
- d. The questions are designed to be carefully contemplated and thought through. Several of the questions are sensitive; they have to do with your heart relationship with God. So please don’t rush through the answers or you will be defeating the purpose of the course! Answer all of the questions as candidly and honestly as you can. The answers are confidential.
- e. Don’t go to the next question until you have answered the previous one.

## 2. *Answer pages*

Try to be concise and as clear as possible in your answers. Please write or type your answers on regular 8.5 x 11 inch (A4 metric) paper, or on the preprinted answer sheets if provided. Please write clearly and neatly, and if possible print. After completion, please store your answer sheets with these booklets for your future reference.

## 3. *Supplies*

Paper, pen, and Bible are needed to complete your assignments. The King James version is quoted, but you may use another version if you like.



4. *Spiritual Preparation*

Before you begin, it is important that you pray and ask God to reveal the truths that are taught in the lesson. Since you are studying spiritual principles, you need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you understand and obey what you learn (1 Cor. 2:10-14).

5. *Completion of Assignments*

- If you are taking this course with a local coordinator, please follow their instructions.
- If you are taking this course as individual independent study (non-graded), we recommend that you save your answer sheets for future reference. *(Please skip the below instructions numbered 6 and 7).*
- If you are taking this course as a correspondence course, you will be mailing your answer sheets to your course coordinator. Four months are allotted for the completion of this course. You may be granted an extension by contacting your course coordinator.

6. *Only if Correspondent Study*

Mail your answer sheets to your course coordinator: once after completing lessons 1 to 6, and again after lessons 9 to 12. Your lessons will be reviewed and returned as soon as possible. Only mail the answer sheets, not the questions. They will be graded and returned to you by regular mail. ***Please make sure you write your name, student number, course title, and lesson number on each answer sheet. Please see the sample page after the Table of Contents at front. Headings should be in the following format:***  
*Your name   student number   course ATR   lesson number*

7. *Written Feedback (only if correspondent study)*

Spiritual success is not measured by obtaining a high grade point average, but by growth in grace, a holy life, obedience, and Christ-likeness to the glory of God alone. Therefore, the prime motivation in taking this course is to please God alone, by the actual change for good produced in one's life. There are no letter or number grades such as "A" or "100" to be earned. The grader will offer comments, suggestions, or direction from scripture in response to the answers. Some answers will have no comments because the answer is correct or is of a personal nature and therefore has no "right" or "wrong" answer. (Other courses may be graded by a different method than described here.)

## *Notes*