

# **Do You Understand the Personality of God?**

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## ***God is just and Holy***

Many today have adopted the philosophy which believes that since God is love, He will not punish, He will not judge, and He will not be angry with the disobedient. These views are inconsistent with the Bible's declaration of who God is and His personality. Long ago, Abraham asked the question: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25) Yes! The very fact that God is perfect love proves that God cannot look upon evil indifferently and not punish those who do so. God is not like man in that He cannot be tempted with evil, and he cannot look upon any sin favorably. Psalms 5:4-5 declares that God does not take pleasure in wickedness and that He hates all workers of iniquity. God by His very nature of being Holy, declares that those who follow Him and claim to be His people, must be Holy as well (1 Peter 1:16). God is a loving God, who is as just as well as He is Holy, but yet and still there is more to His personality.

## ***God is forgiving***

The fact that all accountable individuals will sin and come short of God's glory is no mystery (Romans 3:23), the question however, is on what basis does sinful man approach a Holy God once he has chosen to sin and has fallen short of God's glory? Well, this relationship can only be repaired and maintained as a result of God's forgiving nature. In Luke 15 there are three parables presented of the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the lost son which really are all one parable woven together by Jesus. The underlining theme in these parables is that many men are lost in different conditions, some as a result of their own choice, some not knowing they are lost, and some slipping right through the cracks of life. Nevertheless, the reassuring message is that God will pardon abundantly and that God is a forgiving God, a God of second chance if men would be willing to return to Him on His terms. God has the personality which forgives all men who would repent and turn to Him in obedient faith. The forgiving nature of God is embodied by Jesus' statement on the cross, to forgive those carrying out the crucifixion because they did so ignorantly (Luke 23:34). God is waiting and willing to forgive men, but many today have brushed aside His call to return and are enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season outside the loving borders of protection which God provides.

## ***God is longsuffering***

The very fact that the world is still standing today is proof of God's love and long suffering nature (2 Peter 3:9-10). God's long suffering nature and desire for all men to be saved, resulted in Him not only sending Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of the world, but also to grant continued time for those who have not heard and obeyed the saving message of the gospel to do so. Many today take the long-suffering of God for granted and delay their obedience, use of talents, and faithfulness, assuming they have time to do things the Lord's way. However, the unwelcomed truth is that in accordance with 1 Thessalonians 5:2, the Lord will come as a thief in the night and His long suffering will soon come to a close as time on earth will be no more. May we all with ready minds and swift feet be of service to and for our Lord while we can.