

# God's Holiness

- “Holiness is the absolute purity of God’s nature, whereby he delights in whatever is agreeable to his holy will, and in the resemblance of it that is in the creatures. Or, it is **the perfect rectitude and integrity of the divine essence**, whereby in all that he doth he acts like himself and for himself, delighting in whatever is agreeable to his will and nature, and abhorring whatever is contrary thereto.” – Thomas Boston, Works, I:69.

# God's Holiness

- God is:
  - **Necessarily holy:** His holiness is not only an act of his will, but belongs to his essence
  - **Essentially holy:** He could as soon cease to be God, as cease to be holy.
  - **Perfectly holy:** “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all,” 1 John 1:5.
  - **Universally holy:** He is holy in his name, in his nature, in his word, and in his works.
  - **Originally holy:** He is the original spring of all the holiness that is in the creatures.
  - **Exemplarily holy:** Hence we are required to “be holy as God is holy,” 1 Pet. 1:16.
  - **Perpetually and unchangeably holy:** He cannot grow more holy than he is, because he is infinitely holy, and his holiness is incapable of any addition. Nor can he grow less holy than he is, because then he would cease to be God.

# God's Holiness

- God's Holiness Manifested:
  - In his word: all his precepts and promises arise from his holy nature. Especially is this true of the “moral law” (Rom. 7:12).
    - Also true of his promises, as Paul points out in 2 Cor. 7:1, “having these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.”
  - In his works: “The Lord is holy in all his works,” Ps. 145:17.
  - Our redemption by Jesus Christ.

# God's Holiness

- Our Redemption In Christ's Death
  - The great dignity and excellence of his person.
  - How dear he was to his Father.
  - The greatness of his sufferings.
  - The cause of his sufferings.
- Some Inferences:
  - The great evil of sin.
  - The excellence of true gospel-holiness.
  - God can have no gracious communion with unholy sinners.
  - The best of saints, are far short of that holiness which God requires, and all the purity they have attained is sadly tinged with impurity.
  - Despisers of holiness are despisers of God.
  - There is no access to God without a Mediator.
  - Be exhorted to make a suitable improvement of the holiness of God by fleeing to Jesus Christ to become your Mediator to a perfectly holy God.

# God's Justice

- As sovereign Lord. And so he hath a right to do with his own what he will. He may order and dispose of all the creatures according to his pleasure, **Dan. 4:35**. He may give grace to whom he will, and withhold it from whom he will; and what he wills in that matter is just and right, because he wills it.
- As supreme Governor and Judge of the world. And so he is just in governing his rational creatures in a way agreeable to their nature, according to a law which he has given them.

# God's Justice

- Legislative or Executive
  - There is a legislative justice, which is that whereby he gives most just and righteous laws to his creatures, commanding and forbidding what is fit for them in right reason to do and forbear. “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our king, the Lord is our lawgiver,” **Isa. 33:22.**
  - God's executive justice, called also by some his judicial justice, by others his distributive justice. In this respect he is just in giving every one his due, and in rendering unto all men according to their works, without respect of persons.

# God's Justice

- The executive justice of God is either remunerative or afflictive.
  - There is a remunerative or rewarding justice. God is just in rewarding the righteous, **Ps. 58:11**, “Verily there is a reward for the righteous.”
  - There is an afflictive justice. God is just in all the afflictions and troubles which he brings upon his creatures; because he always punishes sinners by a law.

# God's Justice

- God's justice manifested:
  - In the temporal judgments which he brings upon sinners even in this life. The saints confess this, **Neh. 9:33**, “Thou art just in all that is brought upon us.” The end and design of all God's judgments is to witness to the world, **that he is a just and righteous God.**
  - In sentencing so many of Adam's posterity to everlasting pains and torments for sin, according to that dreadful sentence which shall be pronounced at the last day, Matt. 25:41, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”



# God's Justice

- God's justice further manifested:
  - In the death and sufferings of Christ. God gave his beloved Son to the death for this end, that it might be known what a just and righteous God he is.
  - The justice of God will be clearly manifested at the great judgment day. God has raised up many trophies already to the honor of his power and justice out of the ruins of his most insolent enemies; but then will be the most solemn and final triumph of divine justice.
  - God's justice will shine for ever in the torments of the damned in hell. The smoke of their furnace, their yelling and roaring, will proclaim through eternity the inexorable justice and severity of God.

# God's Goodness

- The divine goodness is that essential property whereby he is altogether good in himself, and the author of all good to his creatures: “*Thou art good, and dost good,*” says the Psalmist, **Ps. 119:68**.
- There is a twofold goodness of God; his absolute and his relative goodness.
  - The absolute goodness of God. This is that goodness whereby he is good in himself, without any relation to his creatures.
  - The relative goodness of God, by which we are to understand his bounty and benignity. As all fullness dwells in him, so he has a strong inclination to let it out to his people on all occasions. The whole earth is full of his goodness, **Ps. 33:5**.

# God's Goodness

- God's goodness is manifested:
  - In creation.
  - Especially in the creation of man.
  - In our redemption by Jesus Christ.
  - In his providential conduct and government.
    - There is God's common goodness, which is common to all the creatures. "God is good to all," says the Psalmist.
    - There is a special goodness of God to his own people, whom he privileges with spiritual and saving blessings.
  - The goodness of God will be most signally manifested at the last day.

# God's Goodness

- Some Inferences
  - There can be no case so bad as to be above or beyond the reach of mercy, to such as come to him in his own way, **Isa. 55:7**, seeing his goodness is infinite.
  - God can fully satisfy the desire of the soul, and in him it may rest with complacency and delight. He is all-sufficient in and to himself, and all his creatures.
  - Strongly recommends to us those “hard lessons” prescribed by our Lord, and which he urges upon his followers from the consideration of his own goodness and beneficence, **Matt. 5:44, 45**, “Love your enemies,” etc.

# God's Truth

- The attribute or perfection of his nature whereby he is faithful, and free from all falsehood.
- Hence he is called “the God that cannot lie,” **Tit. 1:2**. He is true in himself, **Deut. 32:4**, “A God of truth, and without iniquity.”

# God's Truth

- God is true:
  - In his works both of creation and providence,
    - Ps. 111:7, 8, “The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.”
    - Ps. 25:10, “All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth.”
  - In his word,
    - John 17:17, ““Thy word is truth,”
  - In his judgment, especially at judgment day

# God's Truth

- Some Inferences:
  - All hypocrisy and dissimulation, all falsehood and dishonesty, all lying, cheating, and double dealing, is most hateful to God,
  - The truth of God is an immoveable rock, upon which we may safely trust our salvation.
  - The Reformed faith is the only true religion that is in the world, because it is built upon the infallible truth and veracity of God.
  - Imitate God in this his adorable perfection, by “speaking the truth in love,” **Eph. 4:15.**