

Capitol Commission - AL

*"Ut omnes cognoscant Christum"*

## 2025 Bible Study – Out-of-Session

So far this summer as we study about who God is, we have looked at God's *essential* attributes that defined what He is (sovereign, simple, incorporeal, stable, invisible, impassible, and immutable), as revealed in Scripture. Recall His essential attributes are not shared with His creatures; these apply only to Him. This month we will inspect attributes that relate to time (If you need to catch up with any previous lesson you can find it at my website: <https://capitolcom.org/bible-studies/alabama/>).

### LESSON 2. Essential Attributes (How God Relates to Time).

We know God is spirit and exists outside of the created realm, and part of the created realm is time itself. As creatures, we are bound by time (despite so many movies claiming other possibilities), but God is not.

**Without Beginning.** When we encounter a Biblical reference to a beginning, whether we are at page 1 (Genesis 1:1) or at the start of John's gospel, we immediately realize that whenever "time" began, God was already there. Thus, God must be outside of time.

*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?...*

Job 38:4

What would it mean if He had a beginning Himself? That implies there is something greater than God out there, something that caused Him to be—so how could He really be the sovereign God of the Bible?

**Uncreatedness.** Having no beginning, it is important to then state that God was, unlike us, not created. He is the one and only Creator of all that is. This distinguishes Him from all other false gods of human history. In fact, we humans still try to create Him in our image, rather than the other way around.

**Unbegottenness.** This may seem the same as the previous term, but the difference from "uncreatedness" has to do with not being reproduced from another source. God has no parent. Certainly, we know that Jesus, the Son of God, is termed the "begotten" son in places like Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5. However, the Son was only begotten in terms of His humanity. He had always existed in the Godhead (in His divinity).

Many theologians will lump the previous three attributes into one, called **aseity**. That term is derived from the Latin *a se*, which means "from himself" to indicate God has no external origin.

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastor-missionaries who in session teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for all those working in state capitols. The Bible studies are hand distributed to each legislative office, available by email, and shared across the Capitol Commission community. This ministry is an extension of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message and help believers mature through Biblical expositional instruction. Prayer is foundational to this ministry, consistent with proper submission to governmental authority (Romans 13:1-7) and obedient to the command to pray for our appointed leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Our desire is to witness God's work in transforming hearts. Capitol Commission is a non-political and non-lobbying 501(c)(3).

**Imperishability.** It is impossible for God to be destroyed, or to even destroy himself. God the Son became human in order to suffer and die, but His resurrection testifies to the fact He did not perish. As Psalm 102 reminds us, illustrating imperishability and immutability (unchanging) attributes of the LORD:

*Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.  
They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment.  
You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,  
But you are the same, and your years have no end. – Psalm 102:25-27*

**Immortality.** Not only can God not be destroyed, He will also not get old and die from anything else, either. We speak of our own mortality and insurance companies study mortality rates because we all will die. As Pastor Voddie Baucham states, “Our death rate is exactly one per person.” This fact highlights why ministry holds an important place for us. God’s word gives hope for what happens after our bodies pass away, because our souls are immortal. Our immortal soul points to how humans are made in the image of God, different from the animals (see Genesis 1:27). Being immortal in some way is important because of eternity.

**Eternity.** When we hear this word we may think “no end of time”, but it is more precise to say it speaks to “timelessness”, a sphere outside of created time. Thus, when God promises something eternal, such as a king to sit on David’s throne forever, it carries more weight than say, a movie star promising to love his girl forever. It is truly a time without end, which is difficult to get our heads around.

As you read these last three attributes, perhaps you start to recognize that some of these are promised to God’s children, so we are getting into a branch of His essential attributes that become shareable (to a degree) with His creatures **when we become new creations in Christ** (2 Cor 5:17). Look at what Paul writes about our glorified bodies in 1 Cor 15:52b-54:

*For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

So you see, as new creatures in a new covenant, we have a glorious future where we will be made more like Him in so many ways and so enjoy Him forever—for eternity!

### **Applications to Us.**

1. Our culture avoids speaking of death and mortality, until we are forced to do so. Is your immortal soul at peace with God, the Creator? The way to this peace is by trusting in Christ alone for salvation.
2. It may help to speak of time as a bound upon us, constricting us to live sequentially, second-by-second along a timeline. When we strive to control our lives, time eludes that control. I hope the concept that God invented time and exists outside of it helps you in trusting Him.

#### References:

Gerald Bray, *The Attributes of God: An Introduction*, Crossway, 2021.

Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, Baker Book House, 1975.

John MacArthur, Jr., *None Other: Discovering the God of the Bible*, Reformation Trust, 2017.

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