

✦ *“Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God [Yhwh, Yhwh God], compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth, Who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.’” -*

Exodus 34:6-7

Exodus 34:6-7

✦ Context

- ✦ After the rebellion with the golden calf in Ex. 32
- ✦ After God's discussion with Moses as to Israel's continued existence
- ✦ In Answer to Moses' request to see Yhwh's glory (33:18)

Exodus 34:6-7

- ✦ This is God directly revealing himself to a man
- ✦ The very first systematic theology lesson in history
- ✦ **What does God reveal about himself within these verse?**

Exodus 34:6-7

- ✦ Yhwh is Righteous
 - ✦ God - The supreme being in the universe
 - ✦ Compassionate - Sympathetic to the needy
 - ✦ Gracious - Willing to benefit the undeserving
 - ✦ Slow to Anger - Long Nosed
 - ✦ Abounding in Lovingkindness and Truth - overflowing with loyalty and honesty

Exodus 34:6-7

- ✦ Yhwh is Kind
 - ✦ Keeps lovingkindness for thousands - not just a select few
 - ✦ Forgives iniquity and sin - Restoration made possible

Exodus 34:6-7

- ✦ Yhwh is Just
 - ✦ Will NOT leave the guilty unpunished - He will not sweep everything under the rug
 - ✦ Visiting the guilt upon future generations - The consequences of sin are long lasting

Theology Proper

The Study of God

~

Can We Know God? If so, How can we know Him?

The Knowledge of God

- ✦ **How do we know that God exists? - External Evidences (Outside the Bible)**
 - ✦ There must be a cause to the universe
 - ✦ There must be a source of morality
 - ✦ The existence of evil(?)
 - ✦ The world must have been designed
 - ✦ **Palm 19:1-6**

The Knowledge of God

- ✦ **How do we know that God exists? - Internal Evidences (Within the Bible)**
- ✦ There is not a single verse in the Bible that seeks to PROVE God's existence. Rather the Bible ASSUMES it.
- ✦ This is circular reasoning, but not a vicious circle
 - ✦ Vicious circular reasoning is lacking either internal or external consistency (within the argument itself or with reality). Ex. = Evolution.
 - ✦ In other words, one must prove an inconsistency before declaring the reasoning to be a vicious cycle. Ex. = gravity
- ✦ **Psalm 19:7-9**

The Knowledge of God

- ✦ **What does the Bible claim about God?**
 - ✦ He exists - Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 14:1
 - ✦ He is Eternal - Genesis 21:33
 - ✦ He is self existing - Exodus 3:14

The Knowledge of God

✦ Can we know God?

- ✦ Working definition: “*God is personal yet infinite and absolute, so He is knowable (sufficiently to be personally known) but not exhaustively comprehensible in any aspect of His being.*”

The Knowledge of God

- ✦ God is personal and operates within the realms of time and space
 - ✦ He walked with Adam and Eve (Gen 3:8)
 - ✦ Descended upon Sinai (Exodus 19)
 - ✦ Dwelt between the cherubim (1 Sam 4:4; 1 Kings 8:10-11)

The Knowledge of God

- ✦ God is infinitely transcendent
 - ✦ He created the universe (Gen 1)
 - ✦ He is Lord/Master of heaven and earth (Gen 6:5-7; 18:21; 24:3)
 - ✦ He transcends Time (Rev 1:8), Space (1 Kings 8:27), and all creatures (Acts 17:27)
 - ✦ He is completely unique (Isaiah 40:18)

The Knowledge of God

- ✦ How can God be known to the extent that is possible for man to know him?
 - ✦ Hebrews 1:1-2
 - ✦ John 14:6
- ✦ Apart from the Words of Scripture and the Work of Christ you cannot know God in any meaningful sense.
 - ✦ **Psalm 19:10-14**

The Perfections of God

His Characteristics/Attributes/What makes him God

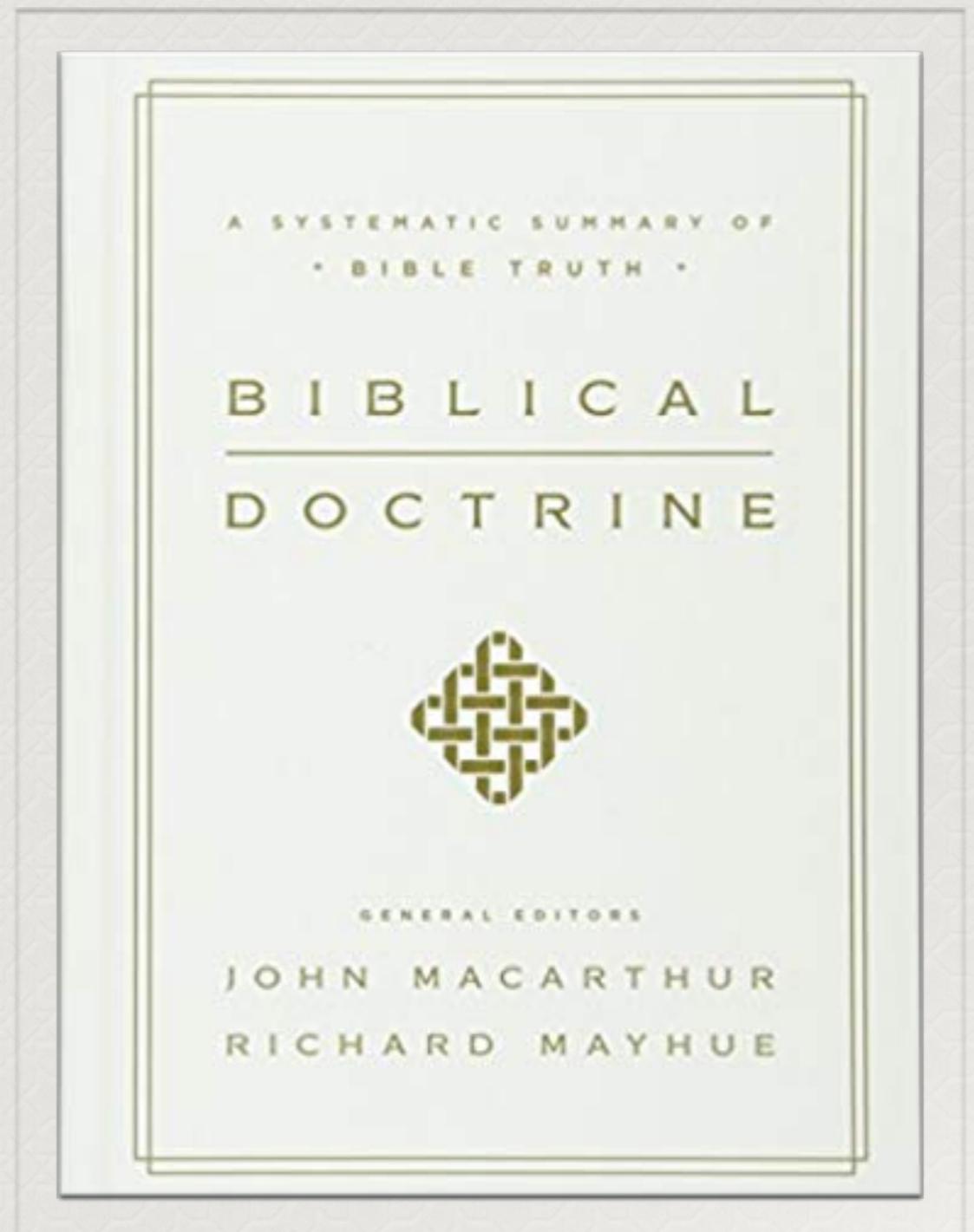
God's Perfections

✦ Perfections vs. Attributes

- ✦ An Attribute is synonymous with a characteristic
 - ✦ One can have the attribute of kindness without being thoroughly kind
- ✦ A Perfection describes an attribute without any lacking in quality or quantity
 - ✦ *“God’s perfections are the essential characteristics of his nature. Because these characteristics are necessary to his nature, all his attributes are absolutely perfect and thus rightly called perfections. Further, since these perfections are essential to God’s nature, if any one of them were denied, God would no longer be God.” - Dr. James Mook*

Incommunicable Perfections

*Perfection that no being shares
with God. These attributes belong
to him alone, and he displays them
perfectly.*



Independence

- ✦ He is the eternal foundational being, and, consequently, is the absolute being, not dependent on anything outside Himself, self-sufficient in every respect.
 - ✦ Ex. 3:14
 - ✦ Romans 11:36
 - ✦ Joshua 3:13

Immutability

- ✦ He is unchanging and unchangeable in his being, purposes, and promises
 - ✦ Psalm 102:25-27
 - ✦ Isaiah 41:4
 - ✦ Exodus 3:14

Infinity/Eternity

- ✦ He transcends all limitations of time and space
 - ✦ Isaiah 41:4
 - ✦ Gen 1:1/John 1:1
 - ✦ Isaiah 40:28

Omnipresence

- ✦ God's perfect presence with himself, transcendence of all limitations of space, and yet presence with every point of space with His whole being.
 - ✦ Isaiah 66:1
 - ✦ Jeremiah 23:23-24

Spirituality/Invisibility

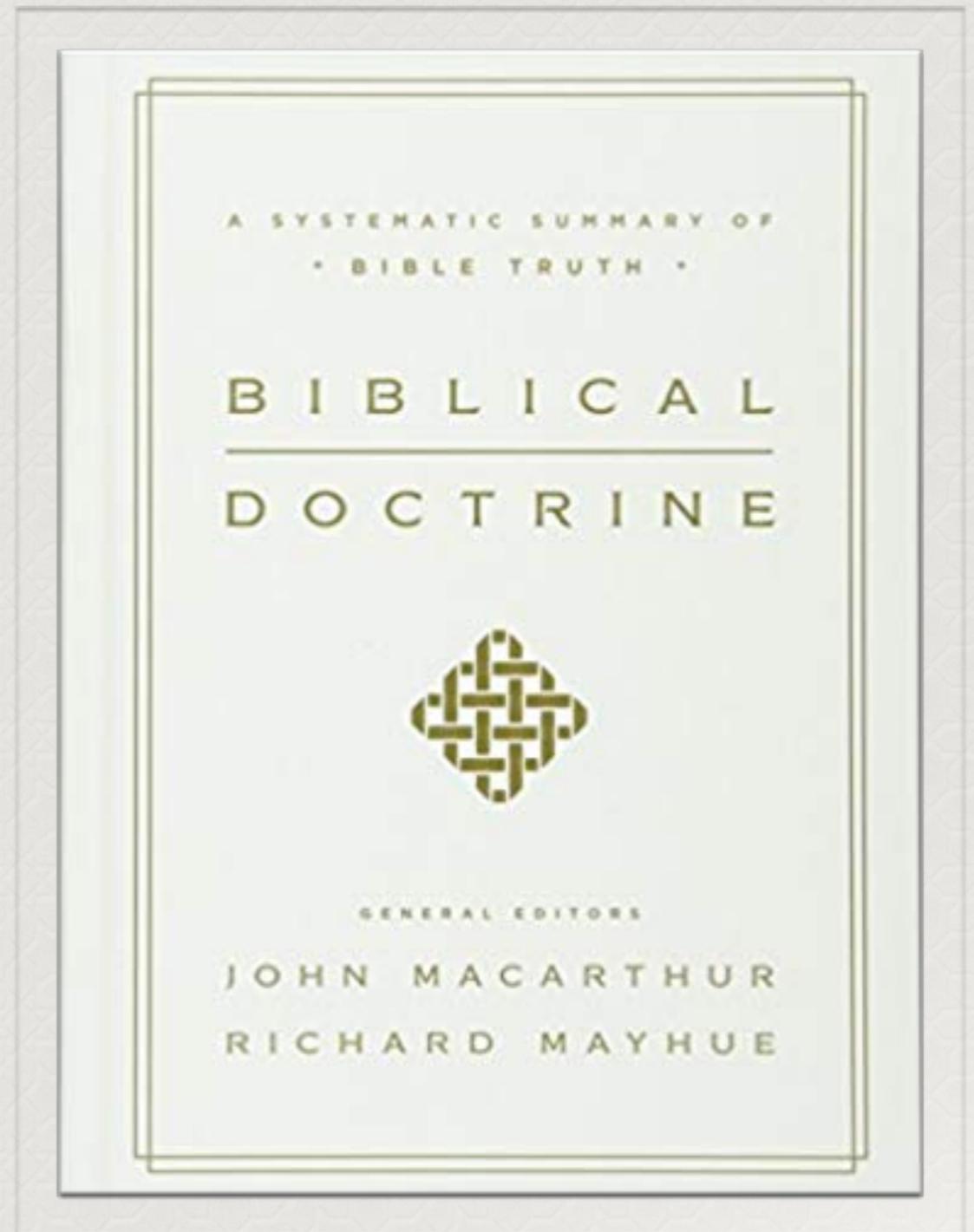
- ✦ Complete lack of material in the Divine essence, because of which God cannot be essentially perceived by physical senses and creaturely spiritual perception.
 - ✦ Romans 1:20/Colossians 1:15-16
 - ✦ Deut 4:12/John 1:18
 - ✦ John 4:24

Omniscience

- ✦ God's perfect knowledge of Himself, all actual things outside Himself, and all things that do not become reality, in one eternal and simple act.
 - ✦ Ps 27:1
 - ✦ Ps 36:9
 - ✦ Ps 43:3

Communicable Perfections

*Attributes that man can share
with God, though not perfectly*



Truth and Faithfulness

- ✦ The perfect correspondence of God's nature with the idea of God; God's perfect reliability; and God's accuracy in knowing things.
 - ✦ Exodus 34:6-7
 - ✦ Num 23:19
 - ✦ Deut 4:31

Goodness

- ✦ God's nature as the perfect sum, source, and standard of the wholes, virtuous, beneficial, and beautiful.
 - ✦ Mark 10:18
 - ✦ Ps 136:1
 - ✦ Ps 34:8

Love

- ✦ God's nature as eternal perfect determination to give of Himself to Himself and to others
 - ✦ Deut 4:37
 - ✦ John 3:35
 - ✦ John 15:13*

Grace

- ✦ God's nature as perfectly bestowing favor on Himself and those who cannot merit it, because they have forsaken it, and are under the sentence of Divine condemnation.
 - ✦ Gen 6:8
 - ✦ Ex 33:12, 17; 34:9
 - ✦ Jonah 4:2

Mercy

- ✦ God's nature as perfectly having strong feelings for Himself and for creatures, regardless if they deserve it or not
 - ✦ Ex 34:6
 - ✦ Lam 3:22

Long-suffering

- ✦ God's nature as perfectly bearing with Himself and with creature in spite of their continual disobedience and disregard for His warnings
 - ✦ Ex 34:6
 - ✦ Num 14:18
 - ✦ Romans 2:4; 9:22

Holiness

- ✦ God's inherent absolute greatness, by which he is perfectly distinct above everything outside His essence, and is especially absolutely morally separate from sin.
 - ✦ Amos 5:21-23
 - ✦ Isaiah 1:14
 - ✦ Ps 5:5

Justice

- ✦ God is Law-giver
 - ✦ Deut 4:8
- ✦ God is Executioner and Rewarder
 - ✦ 1 Kings 8:32
 - ✦ Isaiah 11:4
 - ✦ Exodus 34:7