

Systematic Theology session 8  
The Doctrine of God, "I Am Who I Am," Part 2

- God's attribute of eternity.
  - Eternity is an incommunicable attribute of God's greatness.
  - "Eternal" can be used in one of three ways, depending on context:
    - Relative sense; endures a long time and seems "eternal," like the "eternal mountains."
    - Has a beginning but no end, like angels and humans. Angels and humans were created and have a beginning, but no end; their existence in either a blessed state or in hell is unending (example: 2 Corinthians 5:1).
    - The absolute sense; no beginning and no end. Only God is eternal in this usage.
  - Only God is eternal in the ultimate sense. He is not bound by time. There was never a time when God did not exist. Time and space themselves are creations of God.
    - God does not experience eternity as a series of successive moments, like we would; "He dwells in one indivisible point of eternity."
  - Though God is not bound by time, He does not stand aloof from us outside of time either. God is present with us, in the time and space universe.
  - We should gain comfort from God's eternal nature.
    - God planned for His people before time began. His purpose for us is an eternal purpose.
    - Because God is eternal, God's plan cannot fail. Earthly kings eventually die, and their plans die, but God is eternal.
- God's attribute of immutability.
  - Immutability means that God is unchanging and unchangeable in His essence, nature, and perfections.
  - Immutability is an incommunicable attribute of God's greatness.
  - God's immutability should bring us comfort.
    - The false Greco-Roman gods were capricious, their favor changing to disfavor for little reason. If the true God were changing, we could never have comfort. If God were not immutable, He might void His promises at any time.