

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SERIES: GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don't let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share
[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today's text:

Date: 5/15/2022 – The Severity of God (Romans 11:22)

1. Based on the opening illustration of the blind men feeling only part of the elephant, why is it dangerous to talk of how we feel God is like or only focus on part of God's attributes (ex: God is love)?

2. In the text, what attribute is God's severity contrasted with? How would you define God's severity and what attribute does v. 22 contrast it with? How does 2:4-5 help explain and apply this?

3. Why is God showing “severity” to Israel in Romans 11:22 (see also v. 20 and 23)? How is this also a warning to us Gentile Christians, and how can we guard against this type of “fall” or being “cut off”?

4. How would you define the fear of the Lord and what it looks like in your life in these passages:

- Romans 3:18, 11:20
- Acts 5:5, 11
- Isaiah 66:2, 5
- Exodus 20:20
- Proverbs 8:13
- Jeremiah 32:40

5. For the last point, “be hopeful in the gospel,” how can this study help you appreciate and apply the good news in light of God's severity? How should this produce humility or hope in your heart?