God’s selfie

(or another modern illustration of God’s description of Himself)

Sometimes we take selfies to portray to the world who we are! Did God ever take a selfie? Yes, He did just that in Exodus 34 when Moses asked God for a revelation of himself. God showed Moses His glory by giving him a verbal self-description that is unique among all Bible passages. In this self-description God selects 8 characteristics that He wants to be known by. Let’s study God’s “selfie” and learn how we can better understand who God is so we can better relate to Him and more clearly share him with others.

**Exodus 34:6-7 (NKJV)** 6  And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty,* visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

**Week one:** Merciful and gracious - The first words God uses to describe Himself is merciful and gracious, this means He cares and gives. God cares about our hurts and feelings and gives Himself to fully empathize with us. Is this the first words you use to describe God to others?

**Take Away: Do you approach God understanding Him to be merciful and gracious and do you portray a mercy and grace to people?**

**Week two:** Patient and abounding in steadfast love – In addition to being compassionate and gracious God goes the extra mile by claiming patients and abounding in steadfast love. God is longsuffering in His desire to claim you as His own. And abounding in steadfast love by enduring our human frailties!

**Take Away: Do you approach God with the understanding of His patients and Love, and do you extend patients and love with others.**

**Week three:** True (standard of faithfulness) and keeping steadfast love to thousands – God is faithful to Himself by being truth and extending steadfast love to the masses.

**Take Away: Do we see God as Truth and His word as truth and are we willing to share truth in love!**

**Week four:** Forgiving sin, iniquity, and transgressions – God provides atonement, which is full forgiveness, for all sin both original personal (iniquity and transgressions).

**Take Away: Have you accepted God’s forgiveness for your sins, and are you extending forgiveness to others?**

**Week five:** By no means clearing the guilty – While we rejoice in the seven descriptive words expressing God’s nature and approach to us, He is not a pushover, in the end there will be Judgement and consequences.

**Take Away: today is your day of salvation; do not delay for there will come a day when time runs out on Grace.**