

# Limiting God

Psalm 78:41

## Introduction:

- A. Text refers to Numbers 14 — Israel's reaction to spy report.
  - 1. Tempted (tried) God. (v. 22)
  - 2. Limited God (vv. 13-23).
- B. Let us notice how we may limit God.

## Discussion:

### II. Some Ways of Limiting the Holy One of Israel.

- A. By limiting the extent and freeness of His mercy.
  - 1. Jews' attitude toward publicans and sinners.
  - 2. Elder son's attitude toward prodigal son. (Luke 15)
  - 3. Church at Jerusalem and Saul. (Acts 9:26).
  - 4. When decide in advance that one cannot be changed.
- B. By limiting His ability or willingness to save us.
  - 1. "If You can ... (Mk. 9:22); "If You are willing... (Matt. 8:2)
  - 2. Sinner must not stumble over power or willingness to save.
- C. By limiting our response to His offers to bless us.
  - 1. Not Lord's ability, but our sins (Isa. 59:1-3).
  - 2. Not Lord's unwillingness, but our impenitence (2 Pet. 3:9).
  - 3. Not Lord's unforgivableness, but our's (Matt. 6:15).
  - 4. Not Lord's inability to give, but our not asking (Jas. 4:2,3).
- D. By limiting His way and wisdom to ours (1 Cor. 1:25).
  - 1. Naaman tried to limit God to his way of healing (2 Kings 5).
  - 2. People try to limit God to saving without baptism (1 Pet. 3:21).
  - 3. Brethren try to limit God's ability to do church's work with just local churches (cf. Col. 1:23)

### III. The Evil of Limiting the Holy One of Israel.

- A. It brings the Creator down to the creature's level.
- B. It shows lack of faith in His word. (Heb. 4:12; Eph 3:20).
- C. It shows ingratitude for all God's past favors.
  - 1. God's past favors for Israel.
  - 2. God's past favor us — all mankind.
- D. It limits our own blessings and enjoyments.
  - 1. Excluded those who died in wilderness.
  - 2. Excluded Moses from Canaan

## Conclusion:

- A. Our faith in God must be strong.
- B. We must neither tempt, nor limit God. (Cf. 1 Cor. 10:9).