

THE GOODNESS OF GOD - Nov. 16, 2022

Many of us wear glasses because we need 20/20 vision to be able to read, drive, and see our surroundings clearly – if we didn't wear corrective glasses our daily lives would be distorted, and we wouldn't have a clear picture of our surroundings. In the same way, we need 20/20 vision to see God clearly and especially know His goodness, and when we don't see God properly, then every area of our lives will be distorted, and we think that our God is not a good god and doesn't have our best interests in mind.

It's easy to see on a clear beautiful sunny day, but it's especially difficult to see when it's raining, snowing or foggy. At those times we need to pay greater attention, focus and strain to see if we are driving. It's the same when we are going through those difficult times in life we need to be more intentional in focusing on God's goodness, and that He's for us and not against us.

Today, I want us to think about the goodness of God. Do we see God as good all of the time? Well, I want to tell you today that God is good all of the time and regardless of what is taking place around us or what our lives are like, because we serve a good God, life is all about putting our trust, hope and faith in a holy God who has overcome this world as Jesus has told us clearly, ***“In this world you will***

have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). The last page of the Bible tells us that God wins, and that's our hope, the hope we hang onto!

Through all the heartache and messiness of life, Jesus promises to be with us and give us peace, helping us to cope as we go through all of the aches and pains of old age and fight that battle with sickness, loneliness, or in finding peace and comfort in the death of a loved one (a spouse, a family member, or a close friend). So, whenever heartache and trouble comes our way, we need to remember that it's not God's fault. YES, we have a good God, but we also have an enemy, the devil, that's not good, he's pure evil and wants to destroy us, discourage us, and then get us to put the blame on God, and turn from God. Unfortunately, believing in the goodness of God is one of the attributes of God that many Christians find hard to accept, because we tend to buy into the lie that God is not always good or doesn't have our best interest in mind, or is angry with us. So, we all have trouble trusting God enough to give over to Him control over every area of our lives!

Our warped view of God causes many of us to believe that God is responsible for all the bad things that are

happening around us, or that God has abandoned us and forsaken us – “*Where are You God?*” “*Don’t You see me?*” I’m sure that we have all wrestled with the question, “*Can I trust God?*” “*Does God really notice me and love me?*” To help answer that question, Paul reminds us of this in **Romans 8:31-32**, “***If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.***” The point of this verses is that we serve a good God, because of the fact that if God has already given us the most precious gift He could ever give – HIS SON – why would God start being unloving, mean, and stingy with us now? Why would God ever abandon us and leave us!

God’s greatest desire is for us to love Him and trust Him by completely surrendering and turning our lives over to him – however, we will all have difficulty doing that unless we see God’s goodness clearly. So, knowing that God is always good is the key to a joy filled life, a life without worry, regardless of what is taking place in our lives or around us! And that can only come when we completely surrender everything over to Him and leave the results with Him!

Have you ever heard the phrase, “When we are happy God is happy!” Well, it’s true! God’s nature is to be generous to those that love Him as their heavenly Father, as He loves giving to us and blessing us without motive or condition. In other words, God never gives in order to get. God gives generously, showers of blessings that none of us deserve. God is like a loving earthly father, extremely generous and loving to His children!

The Bible tells us that God is infinite in His goodness – God is eternal in His goodness – God is holy in His goodness, and we are the object of all of His goodness. For many years, especially when I was younger, I saw God as a policeman waiting to point out all of my crimes and wrongdoings so He could punish me. I saw God has having His arms crossed with a frown on His face as He looked down on my life, and He wouldn’t reward me or bless me unless I followed all of His rules perfectly. Having that kind of attitude causes us to wear ourselves out in trying to please a God who we think we can never please, thinking we can never do enough, or ever be good enough to satisfy Him. That kind of attitude will cause a person, especially a Christian to be frustrated, unhappy, and often resentful in trying to please God. They aren’t serving willingly out of love, but out of duty, believing

they are pleasing God by being busy. Is it any wonder we find so many unhappy Christians around us, going around with a frown on their face and a chip on their shoulders, as they try earning their way into God's good books and into Heaven one day. All that God wants is for us to acknowledge Him and spend time with Him, never ignore Him. God wants us to thank Him for our many blessings!

For His natural blessings to everyone – the many things God always does for everyone that we often overlook or take for granted God's goodness in giving us all these natural blessings. We all fall into the trap in not giving God credit for the beauty of this world we live in. We ignore the daily blessing of weather and the seasons (often complain and are never satisfied unless we receive perfect weather in every season). A good God lavishes His blessings on us, according to **Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16** ***"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made...The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."***

We are to give thanks - **Psalm 107** begins with the words, ***"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever."*** As we look back at our own lives and the lives

of those around us, we can see how many times God had stepped in to intervene for our good, bringing blessings and just-in-time deliverance for us and our loved ones, all because He is a good God.

The climax of God's goodness and the clearest way He reveals His goodness to us is in sending us His Son. We already talked about this earlier in **Romans 8:32**, ***"He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things."*** Jesus is the best example to illustrate God's loving and caring character. Jesus is God's goodness on full display.

Jesus reveals God's goodness best in saving us from our sins – **Romans 5:8**, ***"But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*** God's love on the cross flowed out to us while we were still His enemies, while we were still sinners, and that indicates how valuable we are to God. Even though none of us deserved His goodness, Christ emptied Himself and gave it anyway, and Christ suffered and shed His blood on the cross to prove it. So the cross is the clearest and most compelling evidence in which God demonstrates that He has mine and your best interests in mind, wanting none to be lost. The point is that God's generosity on the

cross reminds us that not only has He been good to us today, but that He is committed to being good to us tomorrow, and the next day until the time we leave this earth, and that's why we can trust Him with everything. We can surrender our lives to Him because He is a very good God and will never leave us or forsake us!

Psalm 23:6, “Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 34:8, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

Psalm 84:11, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Psalm 85:12, “The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

Psalm 100:5, “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 106:1, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 135:3, “Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to his name, for that is pleasant.”

Psalm 145:9, “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.”