

God is Good (Part 2)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Selected Scripture

God's goodness is the root of all goodness; and our goodness, if we have any, springs from His goodness.
-William Tyndale

I. The Goodness of God

- A. Scripture declares the goodness of God.
 - 1. To Moses, when he asked to see the glory of God, **Exodus 33:19**, *"I will make all my goodness pass before you..."*
 - 2. To David, **Psalm 23:6**, *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,*
 - 3. **Psalm 25:8**, *Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*
- B. The Scope of God's goodness
 - 1. Gigantic goodness - **Psalm 31:19**, *Oh, how abundant is your goodness,*
 - 2. Tasty goodness - **Psalm 34:8**, *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!*
 - 3. Present tense - **Psalm 86:5**, *For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,* (**Psalm 86:5, 100:5, 106:1**)
- C. The Boundless measure of God's Goodness.
 - 1. **Romans 2:4**, *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*
 - 2. **Romans 8:28**, *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* (**Genesis 50:20**)

II. What is the Goodness of God?

- A. **God is Generous**
 - 1. In the example of the children of Israel escaping Egyptian bondage
 - a) Water (**Ex 15:22-27; 17:1-7**)
 - b) Manna (**Ex 16:4, 8**)
 - c) Guidance in the Law (**Ex 20-40**)
 - 2. In the example of the beasts and birds (**Job 38:39-41, Psalm 104:25, 27-28**), **Psalm 136:25**, *He who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.*
 - 3. In trying circumstances (**Psalm 23:5**)
 - 4. Jesus affirms the same truth (**Matthew 6:26**), **Matthew 6:30**, *But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*
- B. **God is Gracious.**
 - 1. God extends His goodness to unbelievers who live outside of His kingdom and His laws, this is sometimes called "common grace." (**Psalm 145:16**, *You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.*)
 - a) Marriage and children.
 - b) Education and employment.
 - c) Travel and the beauty of His creation.
 - 2. Jesus affirms this truth in **Matthew 5:45**, *For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*
 - 3. Paul affirms in **Acts 14:17**, *For he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."*
- C. **God is Indiscriminate**
 - 1. God can bestow His goodness on unbelievers **Psalm 73:3-4**, *For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.*
 - 2. Further, in **Psalm 73:5**, *They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.*
 - 3. How should we see this?

-
- a) **Psalm 73:17**, *Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.*
 - b) **Psalm 73:18**, *Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.*
 - c) **Psalm 73:19**, *How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!*

D. God is Judicious

- 1. God meets the needs of believers. **Psalm 34:10**, *The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*
- 2. Further, **Psalm 37:25**, *I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.*
- 3. **Psalm 84:11**, *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*
- 4. Jesus affirms God's care for His children
 - a) **Matthew 7:7**, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."*
 - b) **Matthew 7:8**, *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.* Even further in Matthew 7:9-11

E. God is Patient

- 1. He is slow to anger (**Num 14:18, Psa 103:8, 145:8**). Consider **Romans 9:22**, *What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,*
- 2. Paul experienced the patience of God related to his sin and salvation. (**1 Tim 1:16**)
- 3. Noah experienced God's patience (**1 Peter 3:20; cf. 2 Peter 3:9**). See **vss 14-15**.

F. God is Guiding

- 1. He guides all who trust in Him (**Psalm 23:3**, *He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*)
- 2. He orders our steps (**Psalm 37:23-24**) See also (**Psalm 31:3, 5:8**)
- 3. In the Life of Jesus (**Luke 4:1-2**)

G. God is Guarding

- 1. God's laws and prohibitions express His goodness (**Genesis 2:17**, *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*)
 - a) The knowledge of good and evil would rob them of happiness
 - b) And open us to harm.
- 2. Job is an example of being guarded by God. **Job 1:10**, *Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side?*

III. God is Infinitely Good (He is All Good!)

- A. God always works for the good of His children (**Romans 8:28**, *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*)
- B. The good is found in the next verse, **Romans 8:29**, *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son*
- C. God is causing "all things" – both good things and bad things, prosperity and adversity – to be interwoven into one master purpose that He is constantly working in our lives. "All things" are working for our good, because God Himself is good.
- D. Psalm 23
 - 1. The good Shepherd is my satisfaction (1-2).
 - 2. The good Shepherd restores my soul (3).
 - 3. The good Shepherd leads me perfectly (3b-4)
 - 4. The good Shepherd provides for my every need (5).
 - 5. The good Shepherd pursues me.
 - a) My Path - Always with goodness and mercy.
 - b) My End - Always in His presence.