

# The LORD is GOOD!

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Dec.26, 2010

*"Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."*

Psalms 106:1

I would like to speak on the subject of, "The LORD is Good." The attribute of the goodness of God is essential to God, without goodness, God would not be God. God is good and goodness is in God. John Gill says, *"There is nothing but goodness in God, and nothing but goodness comes from Him."* The essence and nature of goodness is ascribed only and in particular to Him. It is peculiar to Him alone, remember when the rich young ruler besought the Lord Jesus Christ and called Him good master, do you recall what Jesus said? Mark 10:18, *"And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God."* There is no one, not one person, yea for that matter, there is no being created or uncreated that is even close in comparison to God. God is whole hardily and completely good. God is eternally and immutably good, the goodness of God never changes, varies or is altered in any form shape or manner regardless of what happens. God is always good; no matter what trial a child a God suffers it does not change or alter His goodness. His being radiates the essence of goodness. God is good in all His actions. God is good in all His works of providence. There is never a time that God is not good, God is eternally good and God is presently good. Time makes no changes in the goodness of God. The Godhead is good:

1. The Father is GOOD!
2. The Son is GOOD!
3. The Holy Spirit GOOD!

Not one of us has an idea as to what it means to be good, He alone is good. We thing we do, but we don't. Anything we call good that we do is stained with sin; even those who have been redeemed by Him cannot comprehend the goodness of God. We might confess it, but we don't comprehend it. God is good in everything He does; He doesn't do anything that is not good. Perhaps we can say that the attribute of God's goodness is the sum total of all His attributes.

Theologians define the goodness of God as, *"His benevolence to His creation or His kindness exhibited toward all He has made."* These definitions might seem vague in general, but when applied in a personal way, this is a fascinating and encouraging attribute. The goodness of God glorifies God in its application towards all mankind.

Christ says, "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

God is essentially good, He is immutably good, and He is infinitely good. The goodness of all creation is derived from God. Everything God does is good and there is nothing but goodness in His Being. We see the goodness of God in His nature and essence which has shown forth His goodness is all His acts from eternity.

The goodness of God teaches us that God cares about His creation, about what He has made. Remember in Genesis 1 & 2, 11 times we read regarding creation that it was good and in particular Genesis 1:31, "*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, **behold, it was very good.** And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*" It teaches that God took an interest in His creation, that is, God is not indifferent like in stoicism or absent as in atheism or undecided like mere religion, but is fully involved in the universe, fully involved in His providential care. Thus we see the goodness of God. Again the Psalmist reminds us, "*Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*" Everything about God is good.

- His mercy is GOOD!
- His longsuffering is GOOD!
- His love is GOOD!
- His wrath is GOOD!
- His holiness is GOOD!
- His justice is GOOD!
- His grace is GOOD!
- His compassion is GOOD!
- His forgiveness is GOOD!
- His kindness is GOOD!
- His benevolence is GOOD!
- His blessings are GOOD!
- HIS SALVATION IS GOOD!

Everything about God is good, no matter how you look at Him, He is altogether GOOD! Compared with Him there is none good but God, God is eternally, perpetually, superlatively and infinitely GOOD!

We are partakers of His goodness, if there is any goodness in us it is because He has communicated or imparted His goodness to me. Therefore, because of this, we of all His creatures are to show forth His praises and magnify His name for His goodness

towards us. Psalm 107:1 & 2, “O give thanks unto the LORD, **for he is good**: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.”

We are perpetually partakers of His goodness and therefore our praise to Him should be increased by the fact that the Divine Goodness is not, IS NOT a transient thing, that is, here one moment and gone to next. No, no, no it is ever abiding, His good blessings are ever the same. In regards to this thought, the Psalmist says in verses 8 & 9, “Oh that men would praise **the LORD for his goodness**, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and **filleteth the hungry soul with goodness**.” YES, let the redeemed of the LORD SAY SO! The source of all good things flow from God, the true fountain of all good, GOD IS GOOD! AW Pink says, “The goodness of God respects the perfection of His nature: God is light and in Him in no darkness at all.” Thomas Manton says, “He is originally good, good of Himself, which nothing else is; for all creatures are good only by participation and communication from God. He is essentially good; not only good, but goodness itself: the creature’s good is but a drop, but in God there is an infinite ocean or gathering together of good. He is eternally and immutably good, for he cannot be less good than He is; as there can be no addition made to Him, so no subtraction from Him.”

God is good and is the greatest of all beings. You see God’s goodness in un-derived because it is the essence of His eternal nature. He is good and as God is infinite in power from eternity, in like manner He is good infinitely from eternity. He has always been good, He is good, He will be good forever. There is not time or day which has not expressed His goodness. Psalm 119:68, “Thou art good, and doest good...” Everything that comes or emanates from God, His sovereignty, His decree, His creation, His Law yea His salvation are intrinsically GOOD! Therefore the goodness of God appears to be the sum total of who He is, GOD IS GOOD!

The attribute of the goodness of God is a blessed attribute and it is also a communicable attribute, that is, it is communicated to us, that we might be good, because we are not innately good. By nature we are not good and I’m sure I’ve hit on someone’s self-righteousness this morning, by saying such a statement. We all think we are good; we like to look in the mirror and say to ourselves, you are such a good person. But the word of God tells us otherwise. Man by nature hates this because they want to strut around like a proud peacock to flaunt and showboat their feathers that others might notice, they like to declare, I AM GOOD! Man loves to glory in their flesh, but God reminds us at least 5 times in the Bible that there is none good:

- Psalms 14:1, “To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*”

- Psalms 14:3, “*They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*”
- Psalms 53:1, “*To the chief Musician upon Mahalath, Maschil, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.*”
- Psalm 53:3, “*Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*”
- Romans 3:10-12, “*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*”

But of course there are those who will cry out and say, but what about all the good deeds I’ve have done, Isaiah 64:6 answers your question, “*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses (good deeds or good works) are as filthy rags...*” The problem lies in self-righteousness and the fact that people like to show off or flaunt their goodness and therefore becomes a problem of the heart. Every time we do a good deed or work it is stain with sin which nullifies it before God. It might not nullify before man as we like to praise one another and when we do something good we just can’t wait to tell others so that we can be praise. Don’t deny it, you know exactly what I am talking about. We want to garner all the glory and all the pomp and in pride declare I did that and I will not give God any credit, I DID IT MYSELF! But God says no flesh shall glory before me, 1 Cor.1:29 says, “*That no flesh should glory in his presence.*” As a matter of fact God says if you’re going to glory, glory in this: “*Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*” Jer.9:23 &24.

We must also understand that the Law of God demands that you love your neighbor, i.e. that you render an act of kindness. This is not something that comes from Oprah Winfrey, the idea of pass it forward or an act of kindness. Now, I know that she does many things in helping people, she a humanitarian, but does she do it for herself or for the glory of God? It is God that has declared and commanded us in His Holy LAW, to render to each other acts of kindnesses! This is our duty; the law of love demands this whether it is our next door neighbor or a stranger in the street we are bound by the law of God to do them good. And we are to receive no credit for it, it is our lawful duty. When we don’t do these things in rendering acts of kindnesses, we sin against God and against your neighbor. From any angle, it goes back to God, all the glory goes to GOD! Those who profess faith in Christ are commanded to do good works, but these

good works are in Christ. Eph.2:10, *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

Thus, the goodness of God is imparted to us. We are good because He is good, James 1:17, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”* Therefore, the goodness of God is the sum total of who He is, God is GOOD! He is the source of all goodness. God is absolutely and perfectly good in Himself. You cannot separate or remove goodness from God. God’s goodness is the root of all goodness.

God is good in all His works which includes His providence, Romans 8:28 remind us of this, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* God manifest His goodness to us in His love and protection of us. Every work God does is good, even in His salvation and His justice: If God saves a sinner it is GOOD or if God puts a sinner in hell, it is good, Psalm 145:8 & 9, *“The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.”* Then in verse 17 it says, *“The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”*

David writes many Psalms about the goodness of God, his son Solomon also speaks of the goodness of God in 1 Kings 8:66, *“On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.”* We sing Psalm 100 and at 5 it says, *“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”*

As we already mentioned God is providentially good to us, whether providence smiles on us or if it frowns on us, GOD IS GOOD! The life of Joseph in the Old Testament is very clear on this: We know Joseph’s brothers hated him and wanted to kill him, but in providence they sell him to slavery to some merchandisers on the way to Egypt. Then because of obedience to God, he winds up in prison until God finally raises him out of the dung hill and when it was all said and done notice what Joseph says about the whole matter: Gen.50:20, *“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; **but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”* What shall we say about Psalm 23 let’s read it?

What about Moses when he asked to see God’s glory in Ex.33, notice how God answered him. Ex.33:13, 17-19. God is good in everything He does, has done and is doing and will yet do. Nothing but goodness emanates from God. God’s nature is His goodness, Ps.25:8, *“Good and upright is the LORD...”* Notice the words of Daniel to Belshazzar when God judge the king for his abuse of God’s vessels, *“But hast lifted up*

*thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.” Dan.5:23.* In other words the air we breathe, the rains we receive, the sunlight we receive, the water we drink and we can go on and on, comes forth from the goodness of God and how often do we even stop to thank Him for this. We seldom if ever do, because we take it for granted, just like Belshazzar did. God is so good; we even see His goodness in the grace of salvation. The fact that He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ shows the aspect of His goodness to us and it is that very same goodness that leads us to repentance and salvation.

Turn to Romans 2:3-5. God has been good to us, allowing us to live long enough to even hear the gospel. God has been good to all of us, His goodness, His forbearance and His longsuffering has as its goal to lead you to repentance. No matter how longsuffering He has been, you still sit outside Christ this morning; do not allow the hardness of your impenitent heart to despise the riches of His goodness. If you do, you are storing and treasuring up wrath for the Day of Judgment. The problem lies in the fact that God does not judge quickly and therefore His longsuffering, forbearing and goodness is abuse, by saying I have one more day, but if you die in your condition w/o Christ and death seizes upon you will realize that you have trifled with the things of God. Do not take the things of God lightly, do not despise His goodness, I admonish you to come to Christ even now and bow the knee and confessing Him as LORD of your life so that you can sing with us about the goodness of God in your heart. God told Moses I will make my goodness pass by you, this morning God says to you in the gospel in this sermon, my goodness is passing by you, do not let it slip, but give the more earnest heed to the things which you have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. How shall you escape God's judgment, if you have neglected so great salvation? Ps.86:5, *“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”*

Do not despise the goodness of God, bow down before Him and confess your sins, cry out to God in mercy and ask Him to save your soul; don't let it slip another day! What will you have this day, HIS GOODNESS or HIS JUDGMENT? Choose you this day who you will serve?

*“Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”*

Psalms 106:1

Let's pray: Sing Psalm 145:8-11