

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 2 – “Of God and the Holy Trinity”,
Message # 31 – “The Goodness Of God Introduced”, Presented in the Adult Sunday
School Class, by Pastor Paul Rendall on April 2nd, 2017.**

Chapter 2 – Of God and the Holy Trinity, Paragraph 1 -

The Lord our God is but (a)one only living and true God; whose (b)subsistence is in and of Himself, (c)infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself; (d)a most pure spirit, (e) invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is (f)immutable, (g)immense, (h)eternal, incomprehensible, (i)almighty, every way infinite, (k)most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; (l)working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, (m)for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; (n)the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just (o)and terrible in his judgments, (p)hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the (q)guilty.

a 1st Corinthians 8: 4 and 6; Deuteronomy 6: 4; b Jeremiah 10: 10; Isa 48: 12; c Exodus 3: 14; d John 4: 24; e 1st Timothy 1: 17; Deut. 4: 15-16; f Malachi 3:6; g 1st Kings 8: 27; Jeremiah 23: 23; h Psalm 90: 2; j Genesis 17: 1; k Isa 6: 3; l Psalm 115: 3; Isa 46: 10; m Pro 16: 4; Rom 11: 36; n Exodus 34: 6-7; Hebrews 11:6; o Nehemiah 9: 32-33; p Psalm 5: 5-6; q Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1: 2-3

Psalm 119: 68 – “You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes.”

This verse shows us that God is essentially good in His Being and Essence, and that all that He does is good as well. He is the fountain of all goodness, and we should every day consider the fact that He studies all of His creatures, and especially man, His highest creation, whom He created in His own image and likeness, to do them good. How does God do good to all men? In a providential way He orders all things to bless them with common grace in giving them food and satisfying their hearts them with many good earthly things.

1. What is God’s goodness? God’s goodness can be divided into His general goodness to all mankind, and His special goodness to His elect people.

a. God’s general goodness which He shows to all mankind, is His bestowing upon them, and His giving to them, to one degree or another, the blessings of this earthly life, according to His sovereign and wise purpose and will. These blessings enrich their lives with a degree of personal satisfaction and contentment, and sometimes issue in an earthly happiness, joy, and peace. You should note here that a person may have received many or all earthly blessings and still not understand the first thing about the blessings of knowing God and the great salvation which is only found in our Lord Jesus Christ. As a part of His general goodness, God also, according to His eternal purpose and sovereign will gives to all mankind, the gospel and the free offer of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Acts 14: 8- 17 – “And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked. Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.”

Luke 2: 8-14 – “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.” “Then the angel said to them, ‘do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.’ “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” “and this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!’”

Romans 2: 4 – “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

b. God’s Special and Saving Goodness is His choosing to savingly reveal Himself and the glory of His name, and the glory of His Person, to His elect people, freely giving them, by His grace, the gift of eternal life through His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Exodus 33: 12-23 – “Then Moses said to the LORD, ‘See, You say to me, “Bring up this people.” But You have not let me know whom You will send with me.’” “Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’” “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.” “And consider that this nation is Your people.” And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” “Then he said to Him, ‘If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.’” “For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?” So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” “So the LORD said to Moses, ‘I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.’” “And he said, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’” “Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you.’” “I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

For His people, God will sometimes bless them with many good earthly things as well, but His greater blessing of goodness is demonstrated in His giving them saving grace and mercy, in and through His Son Jesus Christ, so that they will see that they are poor in heart, and cannot save themselves from their sins. It is the goodness and mercy of God that any sinner is taught God’s statutes and taught to fear the Lord.