

Subject: Remembering God's Goodness

Scripture: Psalm 145:1-10

God is great and God is good. The Bible tells us to experience His goodness. *Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* Many of us have tasted His goodness for many years and we can testify that He is so good.

GOD'S GOODNESS IS SEEN IN ALL HE IS AND DOES

***Psalm 119:68** Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.*

He is infinitely good, eternally good, unchangeably good, and supremely good.

***Exodus 33:18-19** And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

***Exodus 34:6** And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.*

***Nahum 1:7** The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

The dictionary defines goodness as “moral excellence, kindness, being disposed to the well-being of others.” In the Bible the word for goodness refers to that quality that causes God to bless people, deliver them, and store up gifts for them.

***Psalm 31:19** Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee.*

A. W. Tozer has said, “By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes total pleasure in the happiness of His people.”

GOD REVEALS HIS GOODNESS IN CREATION

When God spoke everything into existence He proved how great He is and He revealed how good He is. ***Psalm 33:5** ...the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.* He looked out on everything He had made and said, “It is good.” On the sixth day after He created man, ***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.* The first time God said something was not good was in ***Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.* God fixed that.

***Genesis 2:9** And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.* God provided everything good for Adam and Eve. Only one thing was off limits—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is God's responsibility to determine what is good and what is evil. God made everything so that it not only sustained life, but it is enjoyable. We have to eat, but God gives us food that tastes good. We have to drink, but God gives us cool refreshing things. We have to breathe, but God gives us good clean fresh air.

Satan wanted the first couple to doubt God's goodness. ***Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?* He wants us to doubt God's goodness. Do you really believe that God is good?

GOD PROVES HIS GOODNESS BY HIS GENEROSITY

Because He is so good, He gives and keeps on giving. **1 Timothy 6:17** *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.* **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.* **Psalms 84:11** *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.* How sad that we focus on gifts instead of the Giver.

God gives without expecting anything in return and He gives abundantly. Years ago a father and his young son went into a country store. The store owner invited the boy to get a handful of candy. He just stood there and didn't move. Finally the owner reached in and gave it to him. When they left the store the father asked his son, "Why did you wait for that good man to hand you the candy?" "Well, I figured his hand was a lot bigger than mine."

Psalms 145:15-16 *The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.*

GOD IS GOOD TO ALL PEOPLE

Psalms 145:9 *The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.*

God is good to people who don't love Him or even believe in Him. God is good even when we are not. **Matthew 5:45** *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: 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 sends His blessings to atheists as well as devout Christians.

This is often referred to as "common grace," which means that all people everywhere share these benefits. How sad that gratitude not as common as His grace. **Luke 6:35** *But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.* **Acts 14:17** *Nevertheless he (God) left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.*

Augustine said: "Good for good and evil for evil; that is human. Evil for good; that is devilish. Good for evil; that is divine."

GOD IS GOOD IN ALL THINGS AND AT ALL TIMES

Psalms 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.* Even when bad things happen, God is still good. When we get a special blessing like healing, we say, "God is good." But what if we don't get the blessing we want? Do we still say, "God is good?"

Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt and spent most of his young adult years there away from his family and friends, yet after many years he was able to say, **Genesis 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.* When Job lost all his family and possessions, he still praised God because He knew that God was still good. When Paul prayed three times for God to take away his thorn in the flesh, but it still remained, He didn't doubt God's goodness, but thanked Him for the all-sufficient grace to endure it.

We need to remember that even the bad things in life fulfill God's good plan. Everything in life comes either by His direction or His permission. God's purpose is always good, no matter what happens. ***Romans 8:28*** *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 is working all things for our ultimate good. In Heaven it will be all good and no bad.

GOD SHOWED HIS GOODNESS IN CHRIST'S LIFE AND DEATH

Someone who doesn't know God might ask, "If I come to God, how will He act toward me?" The answer is He will be exactly like Jesus. A. W. Tozer explained it like this: "Christ walked with men on earth that He might show them what God is like and make known the true nature of God to a race that had wrong ideas about Him. From Him we learn how God acts toward people. The hypocrites and insincere will find Him cold and distant, but the repentant will find Him merciful. The self-condemned will find Him generous and kind. To the frightened He is friendly, to the poor in spirit He is forgiving, to the ignorant He is considerate, and to the weak He is gentle."

The Bible says that Jesus went about doing good. His life could be summed up in the word, goodness. But the same can be said of His death. You can never question or doubt God's goodness when you look at the cross. ***Romans 8:32*** *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* If God was good enough to pay the supreme price for our salvation, why worry about anything else?

GOD'S GOODNESS IS SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN AND TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Psalms 103:1-2 *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:* How easy it is to forget some of his benefits. We need to remember the good song, "Count your blessings..." Don't overlook a thing. Our goal ought to be: Lord, make me one of the most thankful people on earth. When I stop to count my blessings, let the number of my praises equal the number of my blessings.

Psalms 107:8 *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!* ***Romans 2:4*** *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?* God's goodness should make us realize how much we need Him and how ready He is to love and forgive us.

Think about ***Psalms 34:8*** *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* You have to experience His goodness for yourself. Tasting is personal, individual. I can't satisfy my hunger with food you eat. You can't quench your thirst with water I drink. You must taste the Lord for yourself.

Some people have the wrong idea about God's goodness. They say God is too good to punish anyone in Hell. He is too good not to punish them. Hell is not a bad reflection on God and His goodness. It is a revelation of His perfect goodness. God is so good that He must punish sin. God is so good that He provided a way to punish sin and forgive it at the same time through His own Son Jesus Christ.