

The Goodness of God

Lesson for Sunday, June 15, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ What do we mean when we say someone is “good”? *Allow for discussion...*
- ⇒ Who are some good people that you know or have known in the past? *Allow group members to share...*
- ⇒ All of us would say that we know some good people. Most of us would also consider ourselves good people – after all, we are sitting in church instead of a cell in Effingham!
- ⇒ Read Mark 10:17-18 to your class and ask: What do we do with this?
 - Jesus clearly states, “No one is good except God.”
 - Maybe we aren’t good after all?
- ⇒ The one thing we do know with complete certainty: God is good. Let’s discover what the Bible says about it.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. God the Father is Undoubtedly Good
 - a. The truth that God is good is taught or implied on every page of the Bible.
 - b. Take the time to read through these verses as a class. Try to refrain from making comments and allow God’s Word to make the point.
 - c. Psalm 25:8; 31:19; 33:5; 34:8; 107:1; 145:5-7 & 9
 - d. The Bible is clear: God is good.
 - e. How would define the goodness of God? Consider these thoughts from AW Tozer:
 - i. The goodness of God is the foundation stone for all sound thought about God and is necessary to moral sanity.
 - ii. Tozer’s definition: The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent and full of good will toward men.
 - f. The goodness of God is the drive behind all the blessings He daily bestows upon us. Consider...
 - i. Repentance, though necessary, is not meritorious but a condition for receiving the gracious gift of pardon which God gives of His goodness.
 - ii. Prayer is not in itself meritorious. It lays God under no obligation nor puts Him in debt to any. He hears prayer because He is good, and for no other reason.
 - iii. Nor is faith meritorious; it is simply confidence in the goodness of God.
 - g. James 1 teaches us that every good thing we have has come from God. And why has God blessed us so richly? Because He is good.
2. Jesus the Son is Undoubtedly Good
 - a. How do we understand the goodness of God? We look at Jesus.
 - i. John 14:9 & Hebrews 1:1-3 remind us that if we want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.
 - b. Look up the following passages, have group members read over and identify how Jesus exemplified goodness in the account.
 - i. Matthew 8:23-27 – Jesus protected those in danger.
 - ii. John 8:1-11 – Jesus comforted those embarrassed by their sin.
 - iii. Matthew 8:1-4 – Jesus healed the sick. Don’t miss that the lepers were outcasts and yet Jesus spoke, touched him and brought healing.

- iv. John 11:32-35 – Jesus felt compassion of those who had suffered a great loss.
- v. Matthew 19:13-15 – Jesus had compassion toward children.
- vi. John 19:26-27 – When Jesus was dying, He was still focused on His mother and her needs.
- c. What is the point? Jesus is a good man! His whole life was lived in service to others (Matthew 20:28).
- 3. God has been good to us.
 - a. James 1:17 reminds us that everything good that we have has come to us by the Lord. How has God been good to you?
 - i. IDEA: Give the class members 2 minutes to list how God has been good to them. Then allow people to share one thing they listed.
 - ii. OR, simply have a brief testimony time.
 - b. The problem can be that we come to a point when we expect God's goodness instead of recognizing God's goodness.
 - i. We must remember that even though God is good, we are not (Mark 10:18).
 - ii. Outside of Jesus Christ we are not good in and of ourselves. How should we respond to God's goodness?
 - c. Trust and Security: Knowing God is good gives us confidence to trust Him, even in difficult circumstances.
 - i. His goodness assures us that He is working for our benefit, even when we don't understand the situation (Romans 8:28).
 - ii. Are you experiencing something now that has caused you to doubt God's goodness? Because God is good, we can trust Him.
 - d. Gratitude and Worship: Recognizing God's goodness leads to a life marked by gratitude and worship, shifting our focus from problems to praise (Psalm 34:1–3).
 - i. Application: Challenge your people to dedicate 5 minutes a day to reflect on God's goodness. Keep a journal. Use it to guide your prayer time.
 - e. Motivation for Good Works: Because God is good, we ought to be good, too. Our good works become a testimony of His character in a broken world.

CONCLUSION:

Here's the challenge for the coming week: Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

- ⇒ God has invited us to look for His goodness.
- ⇒ Did you know that flies, spiders and fruit flies all have taste buds on their feet? Can you imagine if God had made us like that?
- ⇒ The challenge is that everywhere we place our feet do we notice the goodness of God? Or do we spend more time focusing on what we perceive we are missing and complain?