

Women of the Word

IMAGE BEARERS: Made for Relationship, Worship, Holiness, Service

GOOD/Goodness: The intrinsic character and nature of God that describes every attribute He possesses.

I Introduction: SWEEPING Statements of God's 'GOODNESS'

1. The 'goodness' of God is prominent in the whole of Scripture. From Moses' record of creation where God pronounced everything which He created as 'good' and 'very good': as in Gen. 1:4, 10, 14. Adam's aloneness is described as 'not good' (Gen. 2:18-25) and was given a helpmeet, Eve.

The fall into sin occurred because **Eve did not consider the 'goodness of God'** and undermines His kindness (goodness) and does not believe nor trust His word. Instead, she believes satan's lie about God (if God forbids something, He must be evil) and eats of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'

2. The 'good' God is known from His Word as and 1 Tim. 4:4) through to the final words of The Revelation. He is described as '**essentially, absolutely and consummately**' good meaning He is good in character and con_____ and is pl_____ to God and morally hon_____, therefore ben_____ in His effect on others.

- a. Matthew 19:16, 17 – 'Why are you asking Me about what is good? **There is only ONE who is good...**'
- b. Mark 10:18 – And Jesus said unto Him, 'Why call me good? **There is none good but One, that is God!**'

3. God's goodness is revealed as both **the SUM total** of His n_____ and cha_____ as well as **one FACET of His glorious nature**. God's glorious nature and character were revealed to Moses:

a. Ex. 33:19 – Then Moses said, 'I pray Thee, **show me Thy glory!**' And He said, '**I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.**'

b. Exodus 34:5-7 – '...then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth; who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...**'

4. Repeatedly in the Psalms and throughout Scripture, God's goodness is stated in the truth statements that enable us to understand the dimensions of God's goodness:

- c. Psalm 107:1 – Oh give thanks to the LORD, for **He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.**
- d. Psalm 31:19 - **How great is Thy goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear Thee,**
which You have wrought for those **who take refuge in You, before the sons of men!**
- e. Psalm 16:2 – I said to the LORD < 'Thou art my Lord; **I have no good besides Thee.**'
- f. Psalm 119:68 – Thou art good and doest good...

- II **TRUTH ESSENTIALS regarding God's GOODNESS and Man's Participation**
1. **We cannot separate** what is good from God
 - a. Ps 16:1, 2 – Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in Thee. I said to the LORD, 'Thou are my LORD; **I have no good besides Thee.**
 - b. Ps. 73:25 – **Whom have I in heaven but Thee?** And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.
 2. **No man born** into the Adamic race is good
 - a. Ps. 14:1 – The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds. **There is no one who does good.** The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, To see if there are any who understand. Who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; **there is no one who does good, not even one. (Consequences: man's need for someone who is GOOD!)**
 - b. Romans 3:10 – 18 – '...All have turned aside, together they have become useless; **there is none who does good, there is not even one.'**
 - c. Romans 3:23 – All have sinned and fall **short of the glory of God,**
 3. **God is the source** of everything that is **sovereignly good in giving and forgiving**
 - a. James 1:17, 18 – '**Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above,** coming down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. **In the exercise of His will He brought us forth** by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.'
 4. **God does not withhold anything** that is truly good from His children
 - a. Ps 84:11 – For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD **gives grace and glory; No good thing** does He withhold **from those who walk uprightly.**
 5. You cannot teach values, morality or character without teaching about God's revealed glory – the goodness He shares with His children.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:14 – 16 – 'As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,** but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves** also in all your behavior because it is written, You shall be holy for **I am holy.'**
 - b. **2 Cor. 3:18** – But we all with unveiled face **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,** are being transformed **into the same image from glory to glory', just as from the Lord, the Spirit.'**
 6. Man's eternal destiny is determined by **his decision as to how one can truly be good in God's sight.**
 - a. John 5:28, 29 – 'Do not marvel at this, for **an hour is coming,** in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth, **those who did the good deeds**

to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

7. Apart from the divine revelation of Scriptures **we cannot recognize true goodness**; it cannot be understood apart from **knowing God and seeing life from His perspective**.
Psalm 73 – a Psalm of Asaph, is a MODEL Psalm of how true believers must process things that 'look bad'
first and last verses Asaph's misconception of the meaning of good (as today's evngelical)

III REAL LIFE MODEL of the True-Believer-Perspective (disappointment to trust)

OT Model and Lessons of Goodness – Psalm 73 – The GROWTH of Asaph is this:
He sees the goodness of God differently at the beginning of his complaint than at the end.

1. 1 Statement:
Asaph defines of God's goodness mean absence of...
2. 2,3 Admission:
Asaph learns that 'good' in God's economy means that something far better than physical prosperity is His gift: int_____ fellowship with God is our hi_____
good and what actually interferes with it is actually e_____.
3. 13,14 Consideration:
Asaph bemoans he has lived 'morally pure' in vain
4. 15 Confession:
Asaph confesses such careless words would betray the generation of true believers
5. 16, 17 Pondering Pays:
Asaph ponders in honest realization, troubled until he comes into God's sanctuary!
6. 18-20 Reality Strikes:
Asaph perceives the real end of the wicked -
7. 21-24 Embitterment ends; good counsel protects:
Asaph evaluates his senselessness...
8. 25,26 Prayer and praise!
Asaph glorifies God for His present goodness, counsel and future reception.
9. 27 Perish and destroyed:
Asaph reminds himself of the future of those far from the Lord and unfaithful.
10. 28 God's good immanence:
Asaph counts God's nearness as his ultimate 'good' and His Refuge and tells others!

CONCLUSION:

1. Because God is GOOD, **nothing to happens** to us which is not for our good. (R 8:28)
2. Prosperity and healers saying God only wants to bless us are false teachers.
See Ps 119:67; Ps. 119:75; Ps. 3:10; 2 Cor. 12:7-10 for proof of this.
3. **God is still good** even when the news is bad!
4. **God's goodness** for our goodness is clearly seen in the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ.
5. Those 'saved by grace' are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for 'good works' which God prepared before time that we should do!!!
6. **Learn from Asaph:** see the goodness of God by getting His perspective on LIFE!