

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

## WEEK 8 – GOODNESS

**Book recommendation:** John MacArthur, *God: Coming Face to Face with His Majesty*

### Introduction

So far we have considered 6 attributes thus far...

- |                 |             |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Love         | 4. Just     | 7. Goodness |
| 2. Jealousy     | 5. Wrath    |             |
| 3. Graciousness | 6. Merciful |             |

Tozer said: The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but His goodness encourages us not to be afraid of Him. To fear and not be afraid – that is the paradox of faith. (Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*, p84)

### What Does This Attribute Mean?

- Goodness = Quality or state of being good, excellence, virtue, benevolence, generosity,
- Good = having excellent qualities, proper, pious, moral, kind, unblemished
  - But also includes the kind benevolence

### Biblical Definition:

**Psa. 34:8** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

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**Titus 3:3** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

**5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

John Calvin: God will never find in us anything which he ought to love, but he loves us because he is GOOD and merciful. (Calvin Commentary on Tit 3:4)

**Mark 10:18** And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Michael Horton:

Similar to grace and mercy is God's patience toward transgressors. Here, too, God is patient, but he is free to show his patience to whomever he chooses. Patience presupposes a situation in which God could justly respond in wrath. Grace, mercy, and long-suffering are the form that God's love and GOODNESS take in relation to sinners. (Michael Horton, *The Christian Faith*, p268)

**Ex. 33:17** And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” **18** Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” **19** And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. **20** But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” **21** And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, **22** and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

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**Ex. 34:5** The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. **6** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." **8** And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

### The Spurge

Now, what attribute is God about to show to Moses? His petition is, "Show me thy glory." Will he show him his justice? Will he show him his holiness? Will he show his wrath? Will he show him his power? Will he break yon cedar and show him he is almighty? Will he rend yonder mountain and show him that he can be angry? Will he bring his sins to remembrance, and show that he is omniscient? No; hear the still small voice—"I will make all my goodness pass before thee." Ah! *the goodness of God is God's glory*. God's greatest glory is that he is good. The brightest gem in the crown of God is his goodness. "I will make all my goodness pass before thee." There is a panorama such as time would not be long enough for you to see. (Charles Spurgeon, Sermon "A View of God's Glory", 11/26/1908)

### Tozer

That God is good is taught or implied on every page of the Bible and must be received as an article of faith as impregnable as the throne of God. It is a foundation stone for all sound thought about God and is necessary to moral sanity. To allow that God could be other than good is to deny the validity of all thought and end in the negation of every moral judgment. If God is not good, then there can be no distinction between kindness and cruelty, and heaven can be hell and hell, heaven. (Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, p82)

### **Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?**

**Psa. 100:5** For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Psa. 135:3** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

**Psa. 136:1** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psa. 145:9** The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**Jer. 33:11** the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of

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the LORD: “Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the LORD.

**Lam. 3:25** The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

**Nah. 1:7** The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

**1Chr. 16:34** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

**2Chr. 5:13** and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,” the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

**2Chr. 7:3** When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

**Psa. 106:1** Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

**Psa. 107:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

**Psa. 118:1** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

**Psa. 118:29** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

**Ezra 3:11** And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.” And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

**Psa. 119:65** You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word. **66** Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. **67** Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. **68** You are good and do good; teach me your

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statutes. **69** The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; **70** their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law. **71** It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. **72** The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

### How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

1. False Goodness

2. Good to all, but Gooder to Some:

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3. The Unmatched Goodness of the Cross

4. God is Good and Does Good

5. Taste & See

Whatever may be the mysteries of life and death, there is one mystery which the cross of Christ reveals to us, and that is the infinite and absolute goodness of God. Let all the rest remain a mystery so long as the mystery of the cross of Christ gives us faith for all the rest. (Charles Kingsley)