

I Believe in God who is Good

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If you have “no creed but Christ” you would hardly face any opposition from inside and outside Christian circles. People generally won’t care! But when you have, hold, and teach a system of solid Christian doctrines you are more likely to face opposition. You will see a good example of this today as we consider the doctrine of **God’s goodness and its implications to us.**

Our headings are:

The Doctrine of the Goodness of God

Illustrations of the doctrine of the Goodness of God

Applications of the doctrine of the Goodness of God

Our goals are: **That seeing God’s goodness, you will praise him, live honorably before him, and work to see his kingdom spread.**

Article 1: The Only God

We all believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that there is a single and simple spiritual being, whom we call God—eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just, **and good, and the overflowing source of all good.**

The Doctrine of the Goodness of God

1. What does the Bible mean when it says that God is good?

The Bible means that God is kind, fair, and generous in his character and in his work.

2. Let’s consider some Biblical proof of God’s goodness.

a. God is good in his character! He will never think, say, or do wrong! He always wants to do what is good.

Psalm 119:68 - **You are good, and do good;** Teach me Your statutes.

b. God in good his work; his goodness is much more than an attribute he has in himself. God’s goodness is the reason he provides for the general welfare of all his creatures...except for those he lawfully condemned.

Matthew 5:45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

God’s goodness is more specifically seen in how he saved man...his enemy...saved him for eternity!

Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,** 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,** by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the

iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

That abounding goodness that Moses spoke of was revealed in fullness 1400 years later in Jesus. Apostle Paul said:

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God's gave up his only begotten Son to the cross to die for his enemies. God then blesses and protects those he saved. What generosity. What joy! What security! What goodness! Everything that man needed to be happy and safe God gave to him!

c. God's goodness is most personal. God is not just good, but he is good in "**my circumstances.**" **He provided supper and salvation!** So as a Christian, do you have troubles? God is with you, not just as a companion, but as a helper also. He is patient and kind with you.

It is therefore an insult to God to chalk up his goodness to luck or to fortune! Don't ever say, "good luck!" That is to deny God's goodness and give credit to that which does not exist.

3. God is so good that he says 'no' to you when he needs to.

God is not a grandfather. It is common to have a **grandfather theology** of God, but that **is not good theology.** **His goodness doesn't allow him to give you things that are not good for you.** I remember my 4 year old nephew crying bitterly for a sharp 20" machete His tears did not move us. We were good to him to say no to his pleas, just as God is!

4. God's goodness has limits.

There are no limits to God's goodness in his nature. God is perfectly good in his nature. He can't be better! Imagine that! God can't be better. But **God limits his goodness toward man.** He does not save all men. He leaves some for his justice. He doesn't offer salvation forever!

Exodus 33:19 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.**"

The Apostle Paul confirmed this in Romans 9. There he explained why Jacob was blessed but Esau wasn't. Isn't election wonderful? **Those who reject election reject God's goodness and tries to give themselves credit for what God does!**

5. Your good God is the only source of good in this world.

When God works in you only then can you do good. And since he is your Father through Christ, **you can expect to get that ability to do good from him.**

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

Illustrations of the doctrine of the Goodness of God

1. Consider the goodness of God in the life of Solomon.

Because of God's goodness **Solomon had the ability to rule God's people and be generous to his people.**

1 Kings 4:29 And **God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart** like the sand on the seashore. 30 Thus **Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men...**

2. Consider the goodness of God in the life of the woman taken in adultery– he saved her from certain death.

John 8:10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, **"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."**

3. Consider God's goodness to a woman with the issue of blood, how he saved her from a life of physical and emotional pain.

Luke 8:47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, **"Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."**

4. Consider God's goodness to Gentile Christians – he opened the kingdom to Gentiles – he always had an open door.

Jonah 4:10 But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 **"And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left — and much livestock?"**

5. Consider God's goodness even to non-believers and animals. You saw this above.

Matthew 5:45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and **sends rain on the just and on the unjust.**

After the flood, God showed a symbol of his goodness to the world.

Genesis 9:9 "And as for Me, behold, I establish **My covenant with you and with your descendants** after you, 10 "and **with every living creature that**

is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth.

Psalm 145:9 **The LORD is good to all**, And His tender mercies **are over all His works**.

Maybe this should be a thought if you simply want to slaughter God's animals for fun! Animals are in covenant with God!

6. Consider that God's goodness will never leave you even when you go through the most barren times in your life.

Psalm 23:6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life...**

Applications of the doctrine of the goodness of God

1. You must believe with all your heart that God is good and confess it confidently with your mouth.

In doing this God will be honored and praised by others. You might cause others to search out for God, find him, and then glorify his name. (**Remember, there are no secret Christians.**)

2. Don't use God's goodness as an excuse for sin.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Rather, boast in him! Live for him. Fight against the temptation to sin against him. Ask for the help of God's Holy Spirit. **Wouldn't a God who is perfectly good expect you to do good?** A good God couldn't expect anything different!

3. Having experienced God's goodness, worship and live for him according to his standard. This means you are not be afraid or ashamed to live as a Christian even in the most hostile environment.

Psalms 118:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

If you slight God in worship you are saying he is not good enough to be worshipped.

Do you want to stand before God on Judgment Day and say you didn't think he was good enough to worship every Sabbath? I don't think so!

Further, when you consider that God did not show goodness to others, but he showed goodness to you, won't you want to worship him all the more? Election makes you worship better.

4. Having experienced God's goodness, be prepared to suffer for him.

a. Be ready to lose friends and make enemies. Friends may be nice to you, but who gave his own Son's life for you? God! Who would you rather serve? So what if you lose

friends? **You'll get more friends when you become a Christian.** Did you see that young woman who was recently roundhouse kicked by a young man on her shoulder because she said God hated abortions? Christians have their arms around her (and the two others as well)! Did you read the bulletin today to see people suffering for the one who did good for them? **They understand God's goodness and so they are ready to suffer!**

b. Be ready to be mocked by others when you tell them that all that you are and have is because of the Lord. (They might claim to be independent, not needing God, but you know how much you need God's goodness every day.)

5. There are some who say God will save all men because he is good.

They are using God's goodness as an excuse to not surrender their lives to Christ. They want to live however they want! But God's goodness has limits!

6. Share God's goodness now.

You have to share God's goodness with the world. They need it, even if they don't realize it. If you don't share God's goodness, men will die and go to hell.

Conclusion:

God is good. **His nature is good. His work is good.** If his nature and his work were not good, he would not be God and you would not have supper this evening and you would have no hope of salvation today!

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Praise God because of who he is and what he has done for you. He saved a wretch like you! He could have been just and left you to die in your sin, but he showed his goodness to you and gave you grace to receive what Jesus did! And he gave you so much! Consider that when you eat your Thanksgiving meal...and when you wake up tomorrow! Yes, count your blessings, name them one by one!

2. Live good lives like you have been saved by the blood of Christ to do.

3. Work hard to share the goodness of God with people everywhere. This includes sharing the Gospel and your worldly goods as well. This means sharing your time...and ear...and kitchen table...

Finally, God is good and offers his goodness, most importantly, in his offer of salvation to sinners. He will give you a new heart, a new record, and a new life...if you want it. Will you ask God today to give you that which you need most...his salvation? If you do, then you can serve him! Remember these words: Psalms 34:8 Oh, **taste and see that the LORD is good**; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!