

GLIMPSES OF GOD – Message 2

The Goodness of God

Open: What comes to mind when you think about God?

- How you view Him will impact how you relate to Him.
 - ✓ Misconceptions create barriers ... if you see Him only as your judge, you may find it difficult to get close to Him.
 - ✓ You may even wonder if He likes you.
 - ✓ Yet on the flip side, if you see God as loving, never punishing sin ... like a permissive parent who spoils their child ... you will think God exists for you ...
- Where do you go to get an accurate view of God?
 - ✓ The world offers a “salad bar” religion ... pick and choose what you like. Ex.: build a bear ... build a god.
- How does God reveal Himself to us? 4 primary ways:

(1) **Through nature (PP Slide)**

Psalm 19:1 NKJV The heavens declare the glory of God ... they are

Psalm 8:3 NKJV ... the work of your fingers ...

Romans 1:20 NLT For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature.

→ God must be powerful, smart and creative ...

(2) **Through the Word of God (PP Slide)**

- ✓ Creation arouses curiosity; the Word describes what God is like.
- ✓ We will take a look at different Scriptures in this series.

(3) **Through the Son of God (PP Slide)**

Colossians 1:15 NLT Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

√ If you want to know what God is like, then look at the life of Christ (go to the Gospels).

(4) **Through the child of God (PP Slide)**

Genesis 1:26 tells us we were created in the image of God ... as redeemed children of God we are to reflect His character.

→ Live in such a way that those who do not know God but know you will know what God is like because of you.

- God wants to be known; the question is: Do you want to know Him?
- What is required of the person who wants to know what God is like?

Jeremiah 29:11-13 NKJV ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

→ God will not disappoint you, but you must want to know Him ... will you make the effort?

* This morning's focus: God is good. (When we come to grips with this, we will be able to trust Him with our lives.)

- Does God really have my best interests at heart?
- On what basis do we say: God is good?

Romans 8:32 NLT Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?

→ His goodness is proven on the basis He gave the most precious gift He could ... He gave His Son.

– By “goodness” we mean: God is kind, cordial (warm and sincere, friendly), benevolent (helping/caring for others), and quick to show sympathy.

√ He takes great pleasure in the happiness of His children.

√ God really likes you. You are the object of His affection.

→ When you have this image of God,, you will find it easier to pray, and you’ll carve out time to spend with Him.

√ On the contrary ... if you view God as mad/ticked with you ... arms crossed, frown ... sort of a cosmic policeman you will struggle to get close ...

→ God does not show us compassion because we deserve it but because that is who He is ... He is a good God!

(1) How does God reveal His goodness to us?

a) **Everyday blessings (PP Slide)**

- Man is quick to blame God for earthquakes, hurricanes and natural disasters ... we even call them: “acts of God.”
- We overlook beauty and order of a day: sunrise, the song of a bird, coolness of fall, warmth of summer, air to breathe, food to eat ...
- The Psalmist David took time to acknowledge the blessings of God.

Psalm 145:8-17 NLT ⁸ The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. ⁹ The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. ¹⁰ All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you. ¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your kingdom; they will give examples of your power. ¹² They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign. ¹³ For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does. ¹⁴ The Lord helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. ¹⁶ When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. ¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

√ Like David we need to be thankful for the everyday blessings of God ... the beauty of creation, a bed to lay your head, food on the table, friends to enjoy life with ...

→ Every part of your day should remind you of the goodness of God.

* God reveals His blessings:

b) Specific events in life:

- Our church in its early days small and struggling ... God provided people and property ... He met our needs and exceeded our dreams.
- Did He not provide a job for you when you needed one?
- When sick, did He help you through your illness?
- You say, I lost a loved one, how can God be good? Has He forsaken you? Is He not with you?

- In **Psalm 107** David looks back at the goodness of God.

Vs. 4-6 NLT ⁴ Some wandered in the wilderness, lost and homeless. ⁵ Hungry and thirsty, they nearly died. ⁶ "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he rescued them from their distress.

√ God helps the helpless because He is good.

Vs. 10-16 NLT ¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom, imprisoned in iron chains of misery. ¹¹ They rebelled against the words of God, scorning the counsel of the Most High. ¹² That is why he broke them with hard labor; they fell, and no one was there to help them. ¹³ "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ¹⁴ He led them from the darkness and deepest gloom; he snapped their chains. ¹⁵ Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. ¹⁶ For he broke down their prison gates of bronze; he cut apart their bars of iron.

√ God rescues those entangled in sin because He is good.

- He can give you victory where you once tasted failure.

Vs. 23-31 NLT ²³ Some went off to sea in ships, plying the trade routes of the world. ²⁴ They, too, observed the Lord's power in action, his impressive works on the deepest seas. ²⁵ He spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves. ²⁶ Their ships were tossed to the heavens and plunged again to the depths; the sailors cringed in terror. ²⁷ They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits' end. ²⁸ "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ²⁹ He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves. ³⁰ What a blessing was that stillness as he brought them safely into harbor! ³¹ Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them.

√ God meets us in times of crisis because He is good.

- He calms the storms of life.

? Has God ever demonstrated His goodness to you during uncertain or critical times?

* God's goodness is seen:

- a) In everyday blessings
- b) In unusual circumstances/answered prayers ... specific events.
- c) In His Son, Jesus.

– Forgiveness of sin is available because God is good!

√ Salvation is a gift and cannot be earned.

√ The cross shouts how God feels about you!

Romans 5:8 NLT But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

→ When we were disinterested in God, He was interested in us.

– Because He is a good God, He came up with a plan so man could be made right with God.

1 Timothy 2:5 NLT For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity – the man Christ Jesus.

* All these reasons (everyday blessings special events and the work that Jesus has accomplished) point to the fact that God is good.

(2) How should we respond to the goodness of God?

a) Repent

– Have you taken His goodness for granted?

Romans 2:4 NLT Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

✓ God has been drawing you with His goodness ... it is time for a new direction in your life.

✓ If you have become ungrateful, then ask God to forgive you ... learn to be content with His blessings.

✓ Love the “Giver” more than the gifts. *(PP Slide)*

b) Rest

– We live in a “fallen world,” adversity will come ... rest in His goodness.

✓ In this life we will face trouble, but we have a good God who will walk with us and help us get through it!

Psalm 31:19-20 NLT ¹⁹ How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world. ²⁰ You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them. You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.

✓ Even in the tough times, we need to live in light of the goodness of God.

✓ We have an eternal God with an eternal plan, and even if things don't work out the way we thought they should on Earth ... Heaven will reveal our God is good!

c) Risk

- Once you realize God is good, you'll be more likely to step out on faith.
 - √ Each day is fresh with new opportunities.
 - √ Follow where He leads ... God will not abandon you ... He is a good God!
 - √ Too often we feel God would have us do something, but the fear of failure stops us short ...

→ When you obey and do life God's way, His unlimited power, wisdom and goodness is your guarantee ... go for it!

Psalm 84:11 NLT For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

Close:

- I want you to be on the lookout for the goodness of God this week ... (create an interactive piece to our series).
 - √ Go to FBLex.org ... how I experienced the goodness of God.
 - Look for this in everyday blessings, specific events and your relationship with Jesus.
 - √ Be encouraged:
 - Repent of overlooking His goodness.
 - Rest in the knowledge that your God is good and He is with you.
 - Risk by stepping out on faith and following where your good God leads.

* **Next Week: The Holiness of God**

Message Notes
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