

The Goodness of God

Ex 34:6-7

6 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 lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." NAS

God is Good – Here is a virtue of God beaming as the sun, "For the LORD is good, His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Jer 33:11) NAS. This is very essence of God's nature, He is Good! He has always been good, even from eternity past, so it is said, "For His lovingkindness is everlasting." God is originally good, and the source of goodness in the creation, so that when He created all things He pronounced, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." NAS (Gen 1:31) **Everything that comes from God, His creation, His eternal plan, His laws and statutes, His sovereign rule cannot be anything but good!** The longer we sit and ponder God's goodness, the more clearly we see just how kind and gracious He is!

Ps 106:1 - Oh give thanks to the LORD, for **He is good**; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Nah 1:7 - 7 The **LORD is good**, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. NAS

What is this goodness that God is? It has been defined as, "the benevolence, love, mercy and grace of God." Indeed there are no words to describe the meaning of God's goodness. It is certainly the opposite of evil, being that which is "good," that which promotes *happiness* and *prosperity, success and welfare*. His *benevolence* is kind to all His works, His *love* delights in pleasure toward all He has made, His *mercy* is expressed in *pity* and *compassion* for the needy, *gentleness* and *lovingkindness* to His creation, and His *grace* grants His goodness even to the unworthy. He is always *giving*, as it is His nature to give and give. Indeed every good thing comes down from the Father of lights. (Jam 1:17) God is continually kind and benevolent even to the wicked, His enemies, and those who oppose His goodness. What fullness and complete goodness is in the blessed Creator!

Ps 145:9 - 9 The **LORD is good to all**, And **His mercies are over all His works**. NAS

Ps 36:6-8 - 6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

O LORD, you **preserve both man and beast**. 7 How **priceless is your unfailing love!** Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house; **you give them drink from your river of delights**.

Oh how we underestimate the goodness of God. God clothes and feeds us, and showers us with love and family, pleasure and happiness, and yet would we speak a word of complaint? Oh dear reader, count thy blessings! We frequently consider why God allows bad things to happen, yet we continually look upon our sin and the sins of others as just another part of life. Oh the goodness of God in passing over our sins! Although God is patient and forbearing, He will not allow this forever. **Indeed because He is good, He must therefore punish evil.** Would God be good if He just allowed the evil that goes on and never brought it to justice? Would He be good if child molesters and rapists, killers and liars, and yes even everyday sinners like you and me were allowed to just go on thru life, never having to give account for our actions? Indeed He must bring evil to account, and it will be the brightest day of all His goodness when death and hell are put away

forever! Yes and Amen, there is coming a day when He will rid the earth of every form of evil that can be named, and it shall henceforth be called the "Home of Righteousness."

Matt 5:45 - He causes his **sun to rise on the evil and the good**, and **sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous**. NIV

Matt 13:49-50 - 49 "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and **take out the wicked from among the righteous**, 50 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. NAS

Rev 20:10 - 10 And **the devil** who deceived them **was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night **forever and ever**. NAS

Rev 21:3-4 - 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there **shall no longer be any death**; there shall **no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain**; the first things have passed away. " NAS

The gracious mercy of God is expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God is so exceedingly good, that he would come to the earth and being innocent, pay the penalty so that the guilty can be acquitted. What marvelous love is this! Oh blessed Goodness! How have I been released from the prison of my sin? The guilt and shame of my sins is never to be remembered again. *The salvation of God in Christ is exceedingly good!* What's more is that His goodness showers upon us not only eternal life, but He now grants to us all things whatsoever we need for now and forevermore. The blessings and bounty of God's goodness include love and joy, peace and compassion, indeed His patience and kindness now run through our veins as a river of heavenly delights! Blessed lord, "Thy lovingkindness is better than life!" (Ps 63:3)

2 Cor 5:21 - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to **be sin on our behalf**, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him**. NAS

Eph 2:4-7 - 4 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of **His great love with which He loved us**, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that **in the ages to come** He might **show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. NAS

Think with what goodness God has made His creation. The birds and bees, and the flowers and the trees, with what beauty He has graced the earth! And what about our bodies? How perfectly suited for our creative minds has He given us hands by which we can do our good pleasure. Or how about the flavor of your favorite meal, and even vittles to fill a hungry belly. Or the tingling rush of a hot fire on a cold winter's night, or the sweet butterfly kisses of precious young daughter! *Oh the magnificence of the goodness of God!* Volumes could not contain the expressions of the riches of His kindness to us! If we could spend a lifetime considering the loveliness of God's creation, how much more lovely is the One from whom it all flows! How vast is the sum of His goodness? With what shall we respond to the goodness of God? With simple gratitude and a heart of thanksgiving shall we acknowledge His wonderful goodness to us!

1 Tim 4:4 - 4 For **everything God created is good**, and nothing is to be rejected **if it is received with thanksgiving**. NIV

Ps 50:14-15 - 4 "Offer to God a **sacrifice of thanksgiving**. And pay your vows to the Most High; 15 And **call upon Me** in the day of trouble; **I shall rescue you**, and you will honor Me. " NAS