

THE SAME: GOODNESS – #2

Heb. 13:8; Exo. 3:14; 33:18,19

8/22/2021
Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – HEBREWS 13:8 – JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME...

- Reminder – that which we SEE, KNOW, etc... about Christ = SAME infinity
 - Christ in MY image or as revealed in Scripture/Gospels?
 - DEPENDABLE – we can KNOW how we will be received by Christ

SLIDE 3 – THE SAME...

- SAME?: Something that is *consistent, dependable, reliable, unfailing, unchanging, faithful, enduring, stable, secure, steadfast, etc...*

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- Moses & the burning bush – not burned up – Holy Ground
 - Moses to be on a mission – agent of deliverance for Israel, from Egypt
 - God's miracles – staff to snake, hand to leprosy, water to blood, plagues
 - *Who is sending me?* I AM who I AM (I WILL BE what I WILL BE)
 - God is self-existent; Creator/Sustainer of all; Unchanging/eternal

SLIDES 4-7 – EXODUS 3:13,14

SLIDE 8 – THEOLOGY – KNOWING GOD

- Jerry Cook – EVERYONE needs a workable/practical way of looking at life/God
 - → has to transcend human logic, understanding, learning – revealed
 - EVERYTHING about God will not fit w/in my conception of Him
- Who is God? What is He like? How do we know this?
 - Revealed by Him/His words – in Scriptures – In Christ

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- 10 Commandments & the Golden calf rebellion – context of correction
 - Moses intercedes on behalf of Israel, w/God – want to see You
 - “We will follow You, we need You, we can’t go on w/o You”
 - Please reveal Yourself (Your ways, Your face, etc...) to us – God agrees:

SLIDES 9,10 – EXODUS 33:18,19

SLIDE 11 – THE PREDICTABLE GOODNESS OF GOD

- God's self-reveal – Goodness (this is Me)
- Historical record – Chronicles, Ezra etc... “You are Good & Your love endures”
- Psalms & church songbook – Ps. 27:13; 31:19,20; 69:16; 100:4,5; 109:21; 142:7; 145:9 – goodness of God (worshiping Him as GOOD)
- God is predictably good – no worry about coming boldly to Him when in need
- If God is part of causing the problem, He can't be part of the solution
 - E.g. Tire sales – vandalizing tires, then selling to those in need?
 - Dr. gives you cancer, so you'll need him/her?

- IF God is causing the pain & suffering to punish us, WHY/HOW go to Him to get deliverance/health/wholeness/hope?
- Instead – we have the Cross – what is THAT about? WHY did Jesus die?
 - God – “I won’t allow this – I will bring ultimate resolution. You can come to Me in confidence because I am your source of help –
 - *Ps. 46:1 – God is our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble.*

SLIDE 12 – BUT WHAT ABOUT BAD THINGS?

- How do I reconcile the predictable goodness of God w/proliferation of BAD?
- Gotta have a workable/practical philosophy of “WHY BAD THINGS?”
- World created to function a certain way – life vs. death, blessings vs. curses
- God gave authority to humanity → w/instructions – Adam & Eve sinned
 - Authority (*slaves to right or to sin* – our choice) to prince of this world
- Compound nature of sin – when authority/dominion given to enemy →
 - w/sin entered death; God isn’t the punisher for sin; sin punishes sin
 - wages/outcome of sin = death; often affects others unconnected
 - sin, suffering, disease, death, accidents, disasters (natural & otherwise), ruin (\$ & otherwise), rejection/abandonment/violation
- When we see bad, evil, wrong → results of flesh (opposed to God), evil, & the evil-spirited – over periods of millenia
 - 10,000’s of sin/wrong piled up – compounded → chaos, havoc, death
 - Cosmos, planets, weather systems, etc...
- God did not abandon us in this mess – salvation, redemption, deliverance
 - Grace, mercy, forgiveness, relationship → all through Christ/the Cross
 - The GREAT exchange – **Is. 61 – beauty for ashes; life for death...**
- WHY doesn’t God intervene more? WHY doesn’t He just DO stuff?
 - “Disappointment with God” – Philip Yancey – more intervention & miracles, more rebellion, idolatry, etc...

SLIDE 13 – JAMES 1:16,17

SLIDE 14 – EVERY GOOD (& PERFECT) GIFT

- Any/every/all good & perfect to/for/in/around/with us → from Father of lights
- The SAME – no changes or shadows of turning – if its good, its Him

SLIDE 15 – PSALM 23:6

SLIDE 16 – (YOUR) GOODNESS (& LOVE/MERCY/ETC) WILL FOLLOW

- David/Shepherd Psalm – Surely Your Goodness & Your love (mercy, kindness, faithfulness) WILL follow me
- 2 little dogs going wherever you go – can’t escape God’s goodness & love (mercy, kindness, faithfulness) all the days of my life (never going away)
- I will dwell (live in, inhabit, remain in, abide) in the House of the Lord (the place I belong, w/Him, forever, for eternity, for all time)

SLIDE 17 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

SLIDE 18 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*

SLIDE 19 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE