

“God Is: Gazing upon the Glory of God in all His Attributes”

Lesson 7: The Goodness of God

Based upon: “The Attributes of God” - AW Pink

“Systematic Theology” - L Berkhof

10/12/25

Exodus 33:18-19 = “Moses said, ‘Please show me your glory.’ 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.’”

I. Goodness:

A. Definition:

Goodness - “The quality or condition of being good, in various senses; especially moral excellence; benevolence; beneficence”

Good - 1 “a term of general or indefinite commendation like things being what they are called or ought to be”; 2 “morally excellent”. Something is good when it answers in all parts to the ideal.

B. Applied to God:

- “Ascribing goodness to God means that He is in every way all that He as God should be and answers perfectly to the ideal expressed in the word ‘God’.”

- God is absolute perfection and has perfect bliss in Himself.

- The goodness of God respects the perfection of His nature.

- God is infinitely, eternally, and immutably good. He is goodness itself. He is the original good.

- Just like God was all powerful before displaying His power, He was all goodness before the first manifestation of this divine perfection in giving being to all things.

- God has in Himself an infinite and inexhaustible treasure of all blessedness enough to fill and overflow all things.

- God is the “fountain of all good”

- “All that emanates from God - His decrees, His creation, His laws, His providences - cannot be otherwise than good”

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

John 1:1-5 = “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Colossians 1:16-17 = “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things

were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Psalms 36:9 = “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.”

Genesis 1:31 = “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

C. Impact on Creation:

- All good that creatures experience in present and expect in the future flows from God as the inexhaustible fountain.

1) Goodness of God toward His creatures in general

Psalms 145:9 = “The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”

Psalms 145:15-16 = “The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

2) Goodness of God to rational creatures

a) Love

- God loves all image bearers with general love but has special love for His called children

- God loves for His Name's Sake

John 3:16 = “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Psalms 33:5 = “He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.”

Matthew 5:44-45 = “But I say to you, ‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is 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.’”

b) Grace

- the unmerited goodness or love of God to those who have forfeited it, and are by nature under a sentence of condemnation.

- God's grace is the source of all spiritual blessings to sinners

Ephesians 1:7-8 = “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight”

Ephesians 2:4-10 = “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

c) Mercy

- goodness or love of God shown to those who are in misery or distress; withholding the negative that we deserve

- God's compassion and pity for those in misery

Galatians 4:4-5 = "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

d) Long Suffering

- God's goodness and love in which he continues to bear with evil and sin in spite of continued disobedience.

- postponement of merited judgement

Romans 2:3-6 = "Do you suppose, O man - you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself - that you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works"

e) Wrath

- God's final and eternal judgement against sin

II. Our Response:

Praise and Gratitude

- we often withhold gratitude because God's goodness is so constant and abundant that we take it for granted. We ignore His provisions because we experience them daily.

Psalms 107:8-9 = "Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry should he fill with good things."

Psalms 100 = "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

"When others behave badly to us, it should only stir us up the more heartily to give thanks unto the LORD, because He is good; and when we ourselves are conscious that we are far from being good, we should only the more reverently bless Him that He is good. We must never tolerate an instant's unbelief as to the goodness of the LORD; whatever else may be questioned, this is absolutely certain, that Jehovah is good; His dispensations may vary, but His nature is always the same." - Spurgeon