

The Goodness of God

Exodus 33:12–34:9

A.W. Tozer on God's Goodness

"That God is good is taught or implied on every page of the Bible and must be received as an article of faith as impregnable as the throne of God. It is a foundation stone for all sound thought about God and is necessary to moral sanity. To allow that God could be other than good is to deny the validity of all thought and end in the negation of every moral judgment. If God is not good, then there can be no distinction between kindness and cruelty, and heaven can be hell, and hell, heaven."

God's Goodness to Unbelievers

- **Job 22:17-18** - "They said to God, 'Depart from us!' ... Yet He filled their houses with good things."
- **Acts 14:17** - "He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."
- **Rom. 2:4** - "Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"

Unbelievers' Response to God's Goodness

- **Neh. 9:35** - "But they [Israel and her kings], in their own kingdom, with Your great goodness which You gave them, with the broad and rich land which You set before them, did not serve You or turn from their evil deeds."
- **Rom. 1:21** - "Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks."

I. The Ominous Backdrop: The Sin of God's People (32:1–33:11)

II. Three Audacious Requests: The Prayer of God's Mediator (33:12-23)

A. The Three Requests

1. For the Promise of His Presence – "Go with us" (12, 14-17)
2. For the Knowledge of His Character – "Let me know Your ways" (13, 19b)
3. For a Display of His Glory – "Show me Your glory" (18-19a, 20-23)

B. The Only Grounds (19c)

III. God's Gracious Revelation: The Explanation of God's Name (34:1-7)

A. God Is Holy (1-4)

B. God Is Great (5-6a)

C. God is Good (6b-7a)

1. In His Attributes—Who He Is (6)

a. Compassionate (6)

b. Gracious (6)

The Riches of His Grace

1. The Incarnation (Titus 2:11)
2. The whole process of salvation from beginning to end (Eph. 1:7; 2:8-9)
3. The believer's sanctification (1 Pet. 5:10)
4. All spiritual service (Rom. 12:6)
5. Our eternal blessing (Eph. 2:7; 1 Pet. 1:13)

c. Slow to Anger (6)

d. Abounding in Lovingkindness & Truth (6)

- "Lovingkindness"
 - A profound love found in the deepest relationships
 - A tenacious, stubborn commitment to love the person
- "Truth" – faithfulness to His promises

2. In His Actions—What He Does (7a)

The Two Groups in Exodus 34:7

“Those who love Me”

- The guilty who believe in Yahweh as their God, trust solely in His grace, repent of their sins, and seek His forgiveness, and having found forgiveness, love God and show their repentance and love by obeying His Word.

“Those who hate Me”

- The guilty who remain unrepentant and demonstrate hatred for God by continual disobedience and a refusal to turn from their sins and plead for His grace and forgiveness.

a. “[He] keeps lovingkindness for thousands” (7a).

b. “[He] forgives iniquity, transgression and sin” (7a).