

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

All right, good morning and welcome to our Second Service. On Sunday mornings we have two services, the first of which is the Bible Prophecy Update that we do weekly. And then Second Service is actually the sermon. It's a verse-by-verse study through the Word of God. We're currently in the Book of James, and our text today will be just two verses, James 1:17-18. However, before we get started, I just want to quickly mention that I'm going to be taking a couple of weeks off and going to have Pastor Mac and Pastor Leitu who's now on staff, ordained as a pastor. Yeah. [Applause] They will be filling in for me in my absence.

I'm not going anywhere. I made the mistake on Thursday night of saying I'm just going home. And the collective shock on the look of everyone was, What? No, not yet. I don't have any travel plans. I haven't been on a plane since 2019, by my choice. I have no plans to travel. Except I do have one travel plan; it's a nonstop one way and you're on that flight too, by the way. So, okay. So anyway, I'll be back, Lord willing in the pulpit on Sunday, March 27.

So with that, let's jump in. Verse 17, James 1. For those of you that are here, if you're able, I'll ask you to stand. You can follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine.

James, again by the Holy Spirit, continues and writes and says, verse 17, **“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose [verse 18] to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all He created.”** Let's pray. If you would, please join with me. We'll ask God's blessing on our understanding. Loving Heavenly Father, we're so thankful to You for Your Word in this portion that's before us here today in Your Word.

We know that every word in your Word is here for a reason. And Lord, we're here today because we want to know why it is that you inspired James to write these words here in Your Word . Clearly, You have something for us, something You want to speak to us and show to us. So Lord, we want to have ears that are willing to hear and eyes that are willing to see because we don't want our time together today, in Your Word, to be a waste of time. So Lord, would You speak as You're always so faithful to? And when You do Lord, we want to give You our undivided attention. We don't want our minds to wander.

We need the Holy Spirit to help us with that so we don't get distracted and think about something else, maybe something else later today. Lord, this is our time together with You and You with us. So Lord, please, we pray, speak. In Jesus' name, amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

So I want to talk with you today about why good things happen to bad people. I love it. I love you guys so much because, you know that's not backwards, right? Just say, Right, yeah, I know that is not backwards. But wait a minute. We don't say it like that and we don't see it like that, right?

If we're honest with ourselves, we've all been guilty of being the one asking the question. And certainly we've been asked the question of, 'Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?' Right, isn't that the question? Well, why didn't you title it that? Because James isn't talking about that. He's talking about the good that comes from God. And here's the truth whether we like it or not: We're all bad. Have a nice afternoon. It gets better. Don't worry. Why do good things happen to bad people? I'm a bad person. Because last time I checked, there's none good. Are we okay? We've all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Why are you harping on this and why is this so important? Because if it's a question of: 'Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?' Oh, now all of a sudden God is bad and I am good,

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

and then God gets the blame and that borders on blasphemy. And so this question of: 'Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people' is wrong. And you cannot provide a right answer to a wrong question. You first have to get the question right to get the right answer. The question is not: Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

The question is: Why does God allow good things to happen to bad people? Doesn't that just change the whole complexion of it? Well, that's what James is saying here. He's actually by the Spirit clearing up this misconception by presenting three truths in just two verses, which is why we're just taking these two verses today.

The first one is in the first part of verse 17. And I know this might seem like and sound like a firm grasp of the obvious, but everything from God is good because God is good. And it's too bad that that has become cliché because we say, 'God is good all the time. All the time, God is good.'

Well, just a minute now. God is good and everything good comes from God. And here James makes it very clear, in no uncertain terms that if it's good, it's God because every good and perfect gift comes from God. In other words, God can't do bad, God can't do evil. If it's bad, it's not God who has given you the bad. Now God will allow the evil one, the devil to wreak havoc in our lives, but even that is for our good. It's always for our good and His glory. So He's still good. No matter how you try to twist it, slice it, dice it; God is good, and God will always only do that which is good. So stop blaming Him, insurance companies for these acts of God every time there's a disaster.

Okay, Pastor, listen, with all due respect, I appreciate the dissertation and the humor and all that, but seriously though, I mean, why do bad things happen? Okay, forget it. I'm not good, okay. But why do bad things happen? Simple answer. I hope this is not an oversimplification, but it's the simple truth. We live in a fallen world and the devil is the prince of this world. And this world is not our home. So we live in an evil, fallen, sinful, wicked world that's getting even worse, seemingly, with each passing day.

But God is still good, and every good and perfect gift comes from - Interesting that James would say it this way, The Father of lights. It's actually deeper in the original language. It carries with it this idea of God being the Father of all of the celestial creation. He created light. And as such, there is no darkness in Him at all. He is only always good and we have to establish that. Otherwise, what we're about to see next is not going to sync, it's not going to fit, it's not going to work.

This brings us to our second one in the second part of verse 17, and this is very important. It doesn't change when I'm bad. If you were to ask me what I thought was one of our biggest problems as Christians, related to the goodness of God, this would be it. Let me explain. We've been deceived and have believed that if I'm good, good will come. But if I'm bad, oh, bad's coming.

So here's what that looks like, and you know exactly what I'm talking about. Well, I was a pretty good boy this week. I read my Bible. I even tithed, how about that? Helped the old lady walk across the street. You know, I did all these good things. I was a really good boy this week. Reminds me of that - It's funny because it's true. Guy prays and says, Lord, man, I've done so good so far. You know, I haven't coveted, I haven't lusted, I haven't messed up. I haven't sinned, I haven't blown it.

But I know as soon as I get out of bed and my feet... In other words, I was doing great, but anyway, it's all downhill from there. And isn't the enemy right there? I mean, 1000 times a day, he's right in our face going, Wow, that was pretty bad. I know it was really bad. I don't know, if I were you, I wouldn't pray right now because, I mean God's had it up to here with you. So I'd let it, you know, just

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

kind of cool down and simmer down, let the dust settle and let God cool down because you did bad and God be mad.

Well, here's the thing. No matter how bad I am, it cannot change how good God is. And no matter how bad that situation is in my life, it does not change how good God is in that situation in my life. God doesn't change. Like shifting shadows, it's always changing its position.

I'm not going to go there. I almost did. That's self-control of the Holy Spirit, when it comes to changing your position. But anyway. That's - There, I did it again, but the shadow changes its position. So it's here now it's here and then it changes. Now it's over here. God's not like that. God doesn't change His mind.

So here's the good because God is good and He gives me good because God is good and then I'm not so good, in fact, I'm really bad. And so, what? God's in heaven going, You know, we're going to have to revisit this one. You know, here I was so good to him, and then he does this. Gabriel, Michael; get down there. Take that good gift and bring it back up here. He was a bad boy. No. It has nothing to do with how bad I am. It cannot affect or impact or change how good God is. So please don't let the enemy get away with this in your life. You're bad? Oh, oh. You're good. All right. It has nothing to do with it. Nothing could be further from the truth. By virtue of this fact that God does not change His goodness predicated upon my badness. Is that not good English sentence structure? Probably not, but you get the point, right? And another thing Easy for me to say, right? This is why I take time off, you know, so you understand.

But this is why it is that when you know we are bad, which we are, that we think somehow God is surprised. I can't believe it. Boy, that was really bad. Do you think God is surprised? God knows how bad we're going to be before we're as bad as we are. He knows we're going to do bad. He knows the end from the beginning. But He's good. So I do something bad and God's like, I knew you were going to do that. You did? Yeah. Are we okay? Yeah, We're still good, You and I? Yes, we are. But not because of you, but because of Me.

2 Timothy 2:13. May I trouble you to turn there in your Bibles? You'll see why here in a moment. You need to hang on to this verse by your fingernails, if I can say it like that, for lack of a better way of saying it. Because I mean, this just seals the deal. Paul, writing to Timothy, says, **"If we are faithless, He remains faithful."** You want to know why? I'm glad you asked, because we have the answer. He cannot deny Himself. Okay, wait. So when I'm faithless, which is like all the time, He remains faithful. Why? Because that's just who He is. That's how good God is and that's who God is. And to not be like that would be to deny Himself. It is inconsistent, incompatible with who God is, the character and the nature of God.

One more verse I want you to turn to and note. And it again is something that we should hang on to with our fingernails when the enemy's right there to start putting those doubts in your mind about the goodness of God. Because if you really think about it, is that not the issue that we have, especially when we're going through a very, very painful and difficult time? The enemy is right there. Nothing new.

It's the same thing he did in the garden; questioning the goodness of God. Hath God said? Wow, why is God letting this happen to you? I thought God was good. Romans 11:29, **"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."** Now stay with me. Okay, so God is good, and every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of the lights, and it's irrevocable. He doesn't change His mind. Once He

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

gives it to me, He will not take it from me. But the enemy will try. And here's the thing: The enemy cannot take anything from you unless you of your own volition let him.

Jesus said that, he comes to steal, kill and destroy. That's his M.O., right? What does he want to steal? He doesn't want to steal your car. What's he going to do with the car? He wants to steal your joy. He wants to steal your hope. He wants to destroy your faith. He wants you to start questioning the faithfulness of God, the goodness of God. So here comes this trial and I mean, it is a doozy of a trial. Fiery trial, and you're hanging on for dear life and you're thinking to yourself, Man, I don't know if I'm making it out of this one. I think this is how it ends.

And the enemy is right there laying the blame at the feet of a God who is always good. And what do we do with that? Oh, we start entertaining it. Hmm. Like Eve. Hmm. You know, what's interesting about the fall when sin entered the world and then God comes and, you know, says, where are you? He knew where they were. But isn't it interesting that they were hiding in the first place? You know that you've sinned when you always try to cover it up, and that's what they tried to do. My goodness, they use fig leaves. You know how itchy fig leaves are? I mean, really? So they're hiding, they're covering it up. Why? Because they think that God is angry at them.

So God comes to them, and what do they do? They blame everyone but themselves. You know, it's really interesting with Eve, she said it's the - she's not actually blaming the serpent. If you really think about it and think it through, she's actually blaming God for putting this serpent in the garden. And then Adam is no better. In fact, it could be argued that it's even worse with Adam because he's not only blaming God for giving him that woman, It's the one you gave me! [Laughter] I didn't mean for it to come out like that, but it did. I'm sorry.

Boy, I'm going to get it now. But God is good, that was bad. But here's Adam, and it's kind of like this, it's kind of like, You know God, You - It's that woman and the serpent, and you better deal with that. I'll be over here. You just let me know when You get that worked out. Really? It's irrevocable, it's irrevocable. You know what the word irrevocable means? Those of you in the business world, irrevocable, there is no Three-Day Right of Rescission where you can null and void. No, it's irrevocable.

What's irrevocable? The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. I find it very interesting that what God does is He takes and sheds the blood of an innocent lamb and He covers their sin. Why? Because the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable when we're faithless. He is always faithful and that faithfulness is irrevocable. And don't let the enemy get away with that in your life. This notion of it having anything to do with how bad you are, nor does it have anything to do with how good you are, because he does that too.

It works both ways. If he can't get you to buy the lie of, Man, you know, I've been bad and bad's coming. Well, then he'll take you over to the other side and start talking to you about how good you've been. It has nothing to do with how good I've been. Now this is really interesting what James says here in verse 18. And this for a number of reasons, not the least of which, is that he references the new birth.

Now, why is this important? Because our salvation has nothing to do with how good or bad we are. I say it like this, and I do this at memorial services just because it's a memorial service when I'm sharing the gospel. Because the gospel is the good news and the badder or the bad news is, the goodder or the good news will be. And the good news is, is that it doesn't matter how good or bad I

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

am. That's not going to determine my entrance into heaven. In fact, there's going to be a lot of very, very good people in hell.

Oh, you just responded the same way that people do when I say that at a memorial service. It's kind of like, Oh! Because isn't that how people think? I mean, just interview the average person on the streets, let's say. Hey, do you believe in God? Yeah. Do you believe you're going to go to heaven? Yeah. Why? Because I'm a good person. You are? Yeah, I never murdered anybody. Oh. So wait. So good people go to heaven, bad people go to hell. No, it has nothing to do with that. You might be a good person, but you'll never be good enough. We bring nothing to the table of salvation. There's nothing we can do.

There's no good, no amount of good that we can do to have entrance into heaven. It's not what we do. It's what He did. Period. It is finished. Now again, when James says, that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights and there's no variation, no shifting of shadows, no changing of His mind. It's not predicated on how bad I am or good I think I am. You know what he's referring to, right? Especially with this reference to the new birth. I have nothing to do with being born again; He did it all.

And think about it, is that not the ultimate good and perfect gift coming down from the Father of lights? The gift of eternal life. The gift that He purchased, paid for in full with His blood, shed in our stead. Cost Him His life. Cost Him everything to purchase this gift, this perfect gift. It's the perfect gift! You know how it is when we're trying to figure out, Man, you know, I just want to get them the perfect gift. And what do you give someone that has everything? How about that problem? I don't have that problem, but you know, just - I'm actually going somewhere with this.

So here's this good and perfect gift that has come down from the Father of lights, and it's irrevocable, unchangeable. And it's the gift [gift] of eternal life in the person of Jesus Christ as God incarnate, the ultimate gift. So if I'm born again of the Spirit of God and I've received this gift of eternal life that I had nothing to do with, you know what that means? I have nothing to do with keeping it either. Let's talk about Abraham for a minute. There's this account in Genesis when God makes this covenant with Abraham, the Abrahamic Covenant.

And the way they would cut covenant in that day, in fact, that's where we get the modern day saying of, 'cutting a deal,' 'Let's cut a deal.' That comes from the Book of Genesis. I think you'd be surprised to know how many of the modern day sayings come right out of the Bible. Totally plagiarized the Word of God. They need to get their own material. But anyway, they're going to cut covenant. So the two parties entering in to this irrevocable covenant would cut covenant. How? They would take animals and they would cut them up and then spread them out, blood and all.

And both parties agreeing to this irrevocable covenant would walk through those bloody carcasses that had been cut up and they would vow and commit and covenant that if I try to break this, may what has been done to these animals be done to me. They have a word for that. It's called deterrent. They didn't have a lot of attorneys back then, you know? In other words, this is a covenant. It's irrevocable, and if I try to break it, then what's been done to these animals will be done to me. Needless to say, you didn't have a lot of people breaking covenants. Covenants are different than contract.

Okay, what's your point? Maybe you're asking, Do you have a point? Yes, I have a point. So it comes time to cut covenant. God has Abraham take all these animals, cut them up, spread them out, blood

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

and all, and then God's going to come down. And what does God do? He puts Abraham into a deep sleep. And God walks amidst the cut up animals and cuts covenant. And then Abraham wakes up and goes, Hey, whoa, wait. I didn't sign it. No, you can't break something that you haven't agreed to. I put you to sleep. This is not a covenant between you and I. This is a covenant between Me and you. You see where I'm going with this? This is the blood of the New Covenant. I didn't sign it. I can't break it. It's irrevocable, unchangeable. That's what I call the perfect gift. That's the perfect deal.

God cannot go back on His word. This is the ultimate good and perfect gift from the Father above. So I'm saved and I'm born again. And by the way, we had nothing to do with our birth physically, right? Please, somebody just acknowledge that. I mean, you know, right? Wait, maybe I should just ask the question, for purposes of discussion, Did any of you have a choice? Yeah, I want to be born to that family there. In fact, if we were given that choice, we'd say, No, is there another - swipe right, swipe right. Yeah. [Laughter]

I think you get the point. Well, so too do we have nothing to do with our spiritual birth. So if we had nothing to do with it, then there is nothing we can do to lose it. Oh, Pastor, wait a minute now. Oh, you're, woohoo! You're preaching that 'once saved, always saved' kind of thing, aren't you? Well, I'm sorry for the accent, but that's what my Bible says. Because if it were possible that I could do something to lose my salvation, then doesn't that sound more like works?

I thought I was saved by grace through faith, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Could you imagine heaven? We get there and we're able to boast about how we got there. That's not heaven. I think that's the other place, by the way. No, it's we are saved by grace through faith. It's the gift of God, irrevocable, not of works, lest anyone should boast. So if you're born again, you cannot be unborn again Because if that were the case, then I'm very worried.

I'm not sleeping very well at night because if I had something to do with it or I have to do something to keep it, I am in deep kimchi. And by the way, on the mainland, that's a thing here. But you might as well rip out our text today from your Bible because - And while you're at it, God forbid this is almost again blasphemous, large portions of scripture would have to be torn out of your Bible if that were the case. So when Jesus commends into His Father's hands His Spirit, there on the cross and says, It is finished.

If we believe that we can lose our salvation, then Jesus lied. He wouldn't be able to say it is finished unless there was a comma there. It is finished, If... I did my part, now you got to do your part. I gave this to you. Now you've got to hold on to it. But that's - Again, I can't even - It's even hard to say it. Jesus said, It is finished. You know? Bear with me. You know, I asked the Holy Spirit because I've got to make sure. I don't want to - Let's talk about the Rapture.

Can we talk about the Rapture? It's just my favorite thing to talk about. Oh, I love that song, Kapon. [Singing] Soon and - I know what song is going to be stuck in your mind all day - [Singing] Soon and very soon - Oh, I can't wait! Let's talk about the Rapture for a moment. Okay, so there's this teaching out there, and sadly, it's gaining traction. It's known by other names, but the most commonly known name is the Partial Rapture Theory. You know what the Partial Rapture Theory is? Only those who are really on fire for the Lord, really walking close to the Lord, only they will be raptured. Oh, oh. So wait a minute.

So if I have a bad day, I never have a bad day because I'm the pastor, I'm perfect, I'm talking about you. When you have a bad day. you better hope that's not the day of the Rapture, because that

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

means that He's only going to partially rapture a dismembered body. That's how absurd that is. And by the way, who made you the arbiter of knowing where that line is? This is a very interesting thing. I watched the video. I won't mention the name. I was deeply disturbed by it. I shouldn't watch those. This is - and neither should you, by the way. I'm watching this, you know, these are pastors, too, and I'm just thinking, what? What? I mean, It's so arbitrary. It's like, you know, if it's this, then that's it. Well, wait a minute. If I'm saved, how do you determine who gets to go up in the Rapture? Well, you know, they got an 83% on the test and that's the cutoff point. Anything below 84%, you're not going up in the Rapture.

I'm sorry. So how do I know where that...? How do I work harder [Work] to get it up to the 84%? Which apparently seems to be your benchmark. I thought I was saved. This is how I have settled it in my own heart, and maybe this will be helpful to you. I just look at them and think to myself, You know, you're going to get raptured, whether you like it or not. I used to say, especially for those who do not believe in the sound doctrine of a pre-tribulation rapture. I used to say, I'm going to say to you on the way up, I told you so.

But I realize that it's going to be so fast, I won't have time. So I'll just wait because I'll have all eternity. I'll find their mansion and I'll get the address and show up on their doorstep; told you so. [Laughter] Yeah, no, that's bad. That's bad. But God is good. But you see what I'm trying to communicate here? God is good and it has nothing to do with me. I'll never be good enough.

I can't be bad enough where God says, Oh! That's 82. I'm sorry, I can't. No. You know why it's not like that? Because when Jesus said, it is finished, He stamped with His blood on my debt, paid in full 100%. So when I get there, there's going to be lines. You know, I'll be in the long line because I'm a teacher and we're judged by a stricter standard. I sure hope when you're up there, you'll acknowledge me, You're looking at me, I never seen that guy before in my life.

But I'm going to be in that line, it's going to go really slow because we're going to be judged by a much stricter standard. But when I get there, God is not going to say to me, Okay, let's bring out the scale. That's religion, by the way. Let's put all the bad stuff you did over here, and let's put all the good stuff over here. And if the good outweighs the bad, then you can come on in. No, there's no scale. There's a pile. You know what I mean? Paul to the Corinthians. He says, okay, when you get there, there is no scale, but there's going to be a pile. And all of the things you did bad, the flesh; wood hay and stubble in one pile.

All the good that you did, not on a scale, in a pile; precious stones, gold and silver. Now we're not going to weigh them with each other. We're just going to set them a fire on fire and burn them. Oh, okay. Yeah, so the wood, hay and stubble, the fire is going to burn that pile. And the precious stones, the gold, that same fire is going to make them more valuable. Wow! You mean everything I did bad and sinful is going to be in a pile? I'm going to have a very big pile. I know that mine might take longer to burn, but it's still going to burn. Be completely consumed and done away with.

And then the good, well, that's just the precious stones that is purified by that same fire. It's not a scale, it's a pile. It doesn't matter how good or bad. I mean, even the pile, you look at the pile and you say, Well, that's a pretty big pile, I'm not so sure if we should let you in. Let's set it a fire in a blaze and see how long it takes. And if it takes longer than, let's just say, 30 days to burn, No. No go. So just hang out over here. We'll let you know, we'll get back to you.

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

No, because God is good and every good and perfect - And please don't be dismissive of this word, 'perfect.' It's perfect because God is perfect. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights.

One last thing and we'll close. I want to get back to the title that I chose. I know it can be seen as a play on words, but it is such a game changer because if you're living your Christian life with this notion of, you know, I'm a good person, and why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? I tell you, your relationship with the Lord is going to be horrible. And that explains everything.

But when you flip it around and you realize that you're bad and God is good and everything good comes from God. And God in His grace - How many times - and something's going to come to mind when I say this. How many times have you blown it so bad and thought to yourself, Oh, how do we say it when the other shoe drops or whatever? Man, I'm going to get it now. And instead of getting it, God just is so gracious. And then you're stunned, you're like, I thought I was going to get a spanking. No. That's called grace. Where did sin abound, there did grace much more abound. That's how good God is.

When I get back in to its right order, then it all makes sense. God allows good things to happen to bad people, and every single one of us are bad and God is always good. One last thing. I'll have Kaponi come up and I'll have you stand up. Story is told. True story.

An evangelist, his name was Billy Sunday. This is a pre - there's something about Billy, I guess. Or, you know, this is back in the turn of the last century, and he had just done an evangelical crusade and had this woman come up to him and say to him - I get this, I've had this happen before. You know, when somebody comes up to me and says, Man, you're so full of pride - Why are you looking at me like that? To which I respond now, as I heard one pastor say, brother, thank you. You don't know the half of it. Oh, it disarms them. They were looking for a fight. No, you're right. I'm so proud.

Well, you know, how do you know in proud? Because you have a telephone pole of pride, and that's how you were able to see the speck of pride in my eye. But that's another sermon for another time.

So this woman comes up to Billy Sunday, and she says, Preacher, you rub me the wrong way. How are you going to answer that? I'm talking about, you know, not being in the flesh. I have a couple of ideas. I won't share them with you, but here's what he said to her. Well, if I rub you the wrong way, you need to turn the other way.

I'll give you just a moment. [Laughter] When you pet a cat the opposite direction, [Cat hissing sound] the cat needs to repent and turn around. [Laughter] I'm not rubbing you the wrong way. You're just turning the wrong way. Turn in the right way. Okay, I'm good. I'm done. Are you good? No, you're not. You're bad, remember? [Laughter]

Father in heaven, thank You so much. Lord, I thank You for humor, You've got a sense of humor, God, and You gave us humor. It's so medicinal and therapeutic. Lord, thank You so much. Thank You, God, that You're so good no matter what. Lord, thank You that every good thing in our lives came from You, even though we're so undeserving. And yet in Your grace and Your mercy and Your love, You gave us the good and perfect gift of Your only begotten Son. Lord, thank You. Thank You for the gift of eternal life. Thank You that You're good. Lord, lastly, I just want to pray for anyone that might be here or watching online that's just been struggling and this is a real issue, this is a real deal in their lives.

James 1:17-18
Why Good Things Happen To Bad People
J.D. Farag

And they have started to question Your goodness because what's happening in their lives is so bad. Lord, I pray that You'll reveal Yourself to them afresh; Your goodness to them, that they can see anew how good You are. And it doesn't matter how bad it is or even how bad they are; that Your grace is sufficient and that love covers a multitude of sins. Lord, thank You. We love You so much. In Jesus' name, amen.