

Goodness of God

1. Introduction:

- It's important to view God the way He truly is. It'll change how we interact with Him and how we live.
- AW Tozer's definition of the "goodness of God":
 - "The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and quick of sympathy, and His unflinching attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people." - *"Knowledge of the Holy"*
- **Psalm 119:68** "You are good and do only good; teach me your decrees."
 - God has been good, He is good, and He will always be good. It's woven into every fiber of who He is!

2. Scripture detailing the goodness of God.

- God shows his goodness in his **Creation**:
 - Everything He originally created was good. Nothing was bad or had to be recreated.
 - Gen. 1:10 - Day 2: Separated dry land from the water. "It was good".
 - Gen. 1:12 - Day 3: All vegetation, fruit and trees. "It was good".
 - Gen. 1:18 - Day 4: Sun, moon, stars, seasons, days, years. "It was good."
 - Gen. 1:21 - Day 5: All fish and sea creatures and all birds. "It was good."
 - Gen. 1:25 - Day 6: All animals and man and woman. "It was good."
 - Gen. 1:31 - Day 6: Looked over all of His creation. "It was very good!"
- God shows His goodness when he **forgives** our sins.
 - **Psalm 86:5** "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You."
 - **Ephesians 4:32** "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."
- God shows His goodness in his **love** that never ends.
 - **Ps 118:1** "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his lovingkindness is everlasting."
 - **Psalm 100:5** "For the Lord is good. His unflinching love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation."
 - **1 Chronicles 16:34** "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

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- He loves His children not because of our performance or because we measure up, but because His love simply will not run out! He can't love us more and He won't love us less! The goodness in Him causes Him to love us forever.
- God shows his goodness in his **compassion**
 - **Psalm 145:9** "The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation."
 - **1 Peter 5:7** "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you."
- God shows His goodness when He **disciplines** His children.
 - **Psalm 119:67** "I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word."
 - **Proverbs 3:12** "For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."
 - **Hebrews 12:11** "No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."
- God shows His goodness to all. But those that fear Him, trust in him, and take refuge in Him **experience** His goodness the most.
 - **Psalm 31:19** "How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear (reverence) you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world."
 - **Psalm 34:8** "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!"
 - **Nahum 1:7** "The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him."
- God shows His goodness despite the **curse**.
 - **Romans 8:28** "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the **good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

3. Application

- Take time today to write down 20 good things in your life that show the goodness of God to you personally.
- If you're in the midst of a struggle, by faith, lift your eyes away from the situation and look for signs of God's goodness to you. Claim the promise that God is working even that situation for good.
 - "When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer." - Corrie Ten Boom