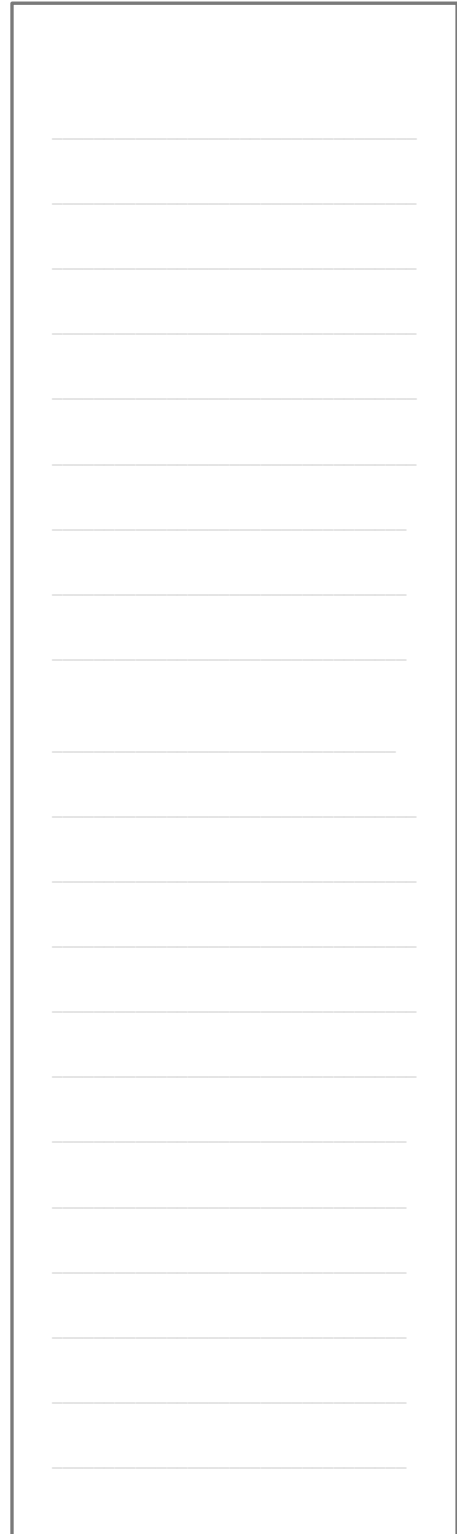


SO WHAT? (application): Here we move toward first-person pronouns as we begin to consider how we must respond to what God has said in His Word.

1. The goodness of God is a coin with two sides. On the one hand, the goodness of God means that He is always good, never evil. This is, of course, bad news because evil is ever present in our hearts, and it is terrifying to contemplate the fact that the Holy one of Israel hates the evil that is in us. On the other hand, it is so reassuring to know that that the same Holy one of Israel is so compassionate and forgiving.

- Which aspect of God’s goodness predominates in the way you think about your relationship with Him?
- How can you avoid swinging into one extreme or the other (either living always in a “[Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God](#)” mode or taking the grace and mercy of God for granted)?

2. This would be a powerful passage of Scripture to pray through, personalizing it as you pray. It opens and closes with self-talk, a call to worship our good God. As you read/pray the psalm, you can continue in that self-talk mode, inserting personal pronouns to make it your own. (For example: “who forgives all my iniquity... who crowns my life with steadfast love and mercy... The Lord is merciful and gracious to me, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love to me... He will not always chide me... He does not deal with me according to my sins, nor repay me according to my iniquity... For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward me... As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on me...”) Make this glorious psalm your own.

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