

# Good News: The Goodness of God

God is the source of every good and perfect gift.

## Taste & See

### **Psalm 34:8 New Living Translation**

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Now that we have caught His wind through our willingness and obedience to His word, will, and way, we can live in expectation of His goodness.

### **Isaiah 1:19 New King James Version**

19 If you are willing and obedient,  
You shall eat the good of the land;

As His obedient children, we should be the happiest and most joyful people on the face of the earth. We have chosen to make Him our Lord!

### **Psalm 144:15 New King James Version**

15 Happy are the people who are in such a state;  
Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

## ***Read Aloud by All***

### **Psalm 34 New Living Translation**

1 I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. 2 I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. 4 I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. 6 In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles. 7 For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! 9 Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. 10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing. 11 Come, my children, and listen to me, and I

will teach you to fear the Lord. 12 Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? 13 Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! 14 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. 15 The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. 16 But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. 17 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. 19 The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. 20 For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous; not one of them is broken! 21 Calamity will surely destroy the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. 22 But the Lord will redeem those who serve him. No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

## **Good From the Beginning**

### **Genesis 1:1-5 New Living Translation**

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.[a] 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

- When God who is good speaks, He releases Himself. When His word does what it was sent to accomplish, He calls it good. His word does not fail to produce good.
- Nature could not rebel because it is a witness of the good news, a reflection of God's glory.

### **Romans 1:19-21 New Living Translation**

19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. 21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him

as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

### **Genesis 1:26-31 New Living Translation**

26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings[a] in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,[b] and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”  
27 So God created human beings[c] in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”  
29 Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened. 31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

- God - the supreme supernatural being, the creator, the source of goodness and life.
- Satan - a lesser supernatural being, the corruptor, the source of evil and death. Since he cannot create, he must tempt into the corrupt use of good things.
- Humanity- the subjects needed to carry out the will of God or Satan on earth.

God, the creator, the source of good, has good intentions for humanity. He offers us good content found in His word and the things He has made, and these things all promote life. The content can influence humanity's response, bringing the desired result of the source. Humanity has free will and must choose to respond to what is offered. Their decision will result in them receiving the original intent of the source. So when God, who is good, offers something to humanity, the result will be good and lead to life.

- **Genesis 2:15-17 New Living Translation**

15 The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. 16 But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

Satan, the corruptor, the source of evil, has evil intentions for humanity. He offers us evil content through lies and the corrupt use of the things God made, and they all promote death. The content can influence humanity’s response, bringing the desired result of the source. Humanity has free will and must choose to respond to what is offered. Their decision will result in them receiving the original intent of the source. So when Satan, who is evil, offers something to humanity, the result will be evil and lead to death.

- **Genesis 3:3-7 New Living Translation**

3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’” 4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

***The first Gospel “Good News:***

**Genesis 3:14-15 New Living Translation**

14 Then the Lord God said to the serpent,  
“Because you have done this, you are cursed  
more than all animals, domestic and wild.  
You will crawl on your belly,  
groveling in the dust as long as you live.  
15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring.  
He will strike[a] your head, and you will strike his heel.”

### ***Evidence of God's goodness from the beginning:***

Genesis 3:20-24 New Living Translation

20 Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.[a] 21 And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife. 22 Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings[b] have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

- God, why did you place the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden? Was it for man's downfall? No, it was for the elevation of Christ that He may have an entrance into humanity.
- So may we look at the presence of what seems bad in our lives for an entrance for the King of Glory to enter!

### **God is Good!**

**Matthew 5:44-45 New Living Translation**

44 But I say, love your enemies![a] Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

**2 Peter 3:3-9 New Living Translation**

3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. 4 They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.” 5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. 7 And by the same word, the present heavens and earth

have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed. 8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

### **1 John 4:7-21 New Living Translation**

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. 14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other<sup>[a]</sup> because he loved us first. 20 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer,<sup>[b]</sup> that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? 21 And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.<sup>[c]</sup>

### **Psalms 27:13-14 New Living Translation**

13 Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. 14 Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

