

# More GOD Please

Goodness & Severity

## MAKING SURE YOUR VIEW OF GOD ALIGNS WITH SCRIPTURE

- ▶ Get in the habit of reading through the Bible annually
- ▶ Creekside Bible-Reading Plan: [www.Creeksideeg.com/sermons](http://www.Creeksideeg.com/sermons)  
(or see Sermon Outline QR code)\*
- ▶ Romans 11:22 (ASV / ESV / NASB / NKJV) - *Behold the goodness and severity of God...*
- ▶ Romans 11:22 (Message) - *Make sure you stay alert to these qualities of gentle kindness and ruthless severity that exist side by side in God...*
- ▶ Dangerous way to seek God: Follow private religious hunches (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- ▶ Healthy way to seek God: Take His Word seriously (Isaiah 66:2)

PRINCIPLE #1: We fallen human beings are notoriously not objective about \_\_\_\_\_!

PRINCIPLE #2: We need to stay constantly open to \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.

## BRANCHES CUT OFF / BRANCHES GRAFTED IN (Romans 11:7-8,11-24)

### GOD IS GOOD (Psalm 34:8)

- ▶ Goodness = something \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ God's self-description to Israel at Mt. Sinai – Exodus 34:5-7

PRINCIPLE #3: God will never fall short of \_\_\_\_\_ being \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Psalm 145:9; Matthew 5:45)

PRINCIPLE #4: God is good to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ ways & to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.

### GOD IS SEVERE (Exodus 34:6-7)

- ▶ Illustration: A protective guard-rail fence before a steep, dangerous cliff
- ▶ Rejecting God's offer of Christ carries serious consequences (John 1:11; 3:36; 15:5-6)

PRINCIPLE #5: Behind every \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ stands a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in judgment if that goodness is \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 2:4)

### HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US? (HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?)

- ❶ In His Goodness, God has offered us A WAY OF ESCAPE (RESCUE)... SO TAKE IT!

**PRAYER:** *Dear God, You are truly good & extremely generous in offering me salvation in Christ. The punishment that I deserve was placed on Your Son when He died on the cross. So I believe the Gospel! Jesus, right here & now I invite You to take up residence in my life as my Lord. I am sorry for my sin & ask for Your cleansing. I also need Your guidance & power to live my life in alignment with Your goodness. Save me, Lord. And live Your life through me I pray. Amen.*

- ❷ In His Goodness, God has given us CLIFF-TOP WARNINGS... HEED THEM!

- ▶ The proper, on-going response to God's goodness & severity is:
  - Sincere faith
  - Profound gratitude
  - Deep humility
  - Teachable posture
  - Fearless trust in God's character
  - Submission to His Word
  - Obedience to His Will
  - Spiritual fruitfulness (Return On Investment)

\* [creekside](http://www.creeksideeg.com/sermons) bible reading plan



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### LifeGroup Discussion Questions—2/20/2022

#### Prayer

Take a few moments to pray with your group. Have each person share praises or explain what they have been struggling with recently. Pray encouragement over one another.

#### My Story

Do you remember a time growing up when you were told “no”, and it ended up being better for you? Were you happy about being told, no? In hindsight, how did the “no” make you feel?

#### Digging Deep

- 1) In C.S. Lewis’ book, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, there is a fierce, noble lion king character named Ashlan who symbolizes Jesus Christ. When someone asked if Ashlan was safe, the response was: *“Of course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”* How does this quote help us think about God’s goodness and severity?
- 2) It’s common thinking in our culture that the Old Testament presents a SEVERE God of justice and wrath, while the New Testament presents a GOOD God of love and grace. How would you explain the reality that both Testaments equally show both sides of God’s nature?
- 3) **Read James 2:10.** Do you think of yourself as more morally innocent or guilty? How would you honestly compare your relative innocence or guilt with others? Do you think you have an accurate self-perception of your moral standing before God? Explain.
- 4) **Read James 1:22-25.** If someone didn’t know you were a Christian, would they be able to tell from your daily lifestyle that you are a believer in Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

#### Digging Even Deeper

- 5) **Read Proverbs 1:7.** It’s easy to be swept up by God’s attribute of

goodness (a wonderful thing!), yet it can be dangerous to focus so much on God’s generous blessings that we forget the need to have a healthy fear of God and judgment on sin. Discuss how we can avoid a “Santa Claus theology” of blessings-only, while continually living in reverential awe toward God.

- 6) **Read Romans 11:11-24.** This is Paul’s explanation on God simultaneously closing the door on disobedient (unbelieving) Israelites and opening the door to repentant (believing) Gentiles. How is this a clear picture of both God’s goodness and severity? Is there a part of this passage that gives you pause? Which part gives you great hope?

#### Taking it Home

- 7) **Read John 15:5-6 & 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10.** Scripture is clear that those who humbly submit to God will experience great joy and blessing, while those who do not obey will experience the severity of God’s punishment for their sin. How can we use this truth as motivation to spread the gospel message of salvation?
- 8) **Read Hebrews 12:5-6 & Psalm 119:71.** We often misconstrue God’s discipline as an unwarranted punishment and blame God rather than our own disobedience. How are we to rightly think about God’s discipline towards us? What good does it bring about? How do you feel about this statement, “God’s blessings are found within God’s boundaries. Outside of God’s boundaries are burdens?”
- 9) **Read 2 Peter 3:9.** How can you live this week within the beautiful biblical tension of God’s goodness AND severity? Review your sermon notes about Cliff-Top Warnings and how we can appropriately respond to God. Name something specific that deserves greater focus in your life.

#### Praying Together

Ask God to gift each group member growth in the following areas:

- Sincere faith
- Profound gratitude
- Deep humility
- Teachable posture
- Quick confession of sin
- Fearless trust in God’s character
- Submission to His Word
- Obedience to His Will
- Spiritual fruitfulness