

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“GOD’S GREATEST HITS:
NEVER GONNA LET YOU GO”**

This week we will study further in depth “God’s Greatest Hits– Never Gonna Let You Go.” This attribute, God’s goodness, is referred to frequently throughout the Bible. We need to understand the importance of the truth that God is good.



Today’s Scripture:

Psalm 119:68, Genesis 1:31, Psalm 145:9,
Genesis 50:20

The Word

Good is often used as a comparison to something else. If we say we had a “good meal” this means in comparison to a “bad meal”. There is a potential for a meal to be either good or bad, depending on the person consuming it. However, one person might consider the meal good while another considers it bad. Thus, the word “good” in our culture is usually defined by the person stating his opinion. We can see this truth in moral choices. One person can act in a certain way and they will believe it is “good”, yet another person could view the action as “bad”.

Our viewpoints determine what is good and bad for us. Often, when we study the fact that God is good we view it in terms that He is not bad. This is true in the fact that there is no evil in God. However, there is more to this attribute than being the absence of “bad”. Also, it is beyond just possessing what is “good”. God is good. This is inherent in His nature. He can be nothing but good for He is good. Just like we can be nothing but ourselves for we are ourselves. The following Scripture sums up this truth

Psalm 119:68

⁶⁸You are good, and what you do is good;

Verse 68: God is good. That is who He is. It is not a quality He has like some people are more outgoing or more even-tempered than others. It is not a comparison that He is more good than we are. He is the definition of good. If you want to see goodness then you must look at God. We can be “good” or “bad” depending on our day. We are not consistent in being “good” for it is something we do or try to achieve. God, on the other hand, is good because He is. The mere fact that God exists is the reason there is good. Because God is good, everything that flows out of Him is good. His very actions must be good for He is good. There can never be the potential that anything He does is below the perfect standard of good. His essence, His personality, His thoughts, His ways, His plans, His actions, His being, His everything is good. This is why at the time of creation, God could call all He made good.

Genesis 1:31

³¹God saw all that He had made and it was very good.

Verse 31: What made creation good? It had been formed into existence by Good and only good could come from good. Good is God. God is good.

Why is it vital to understand that God is good? So we have a solid foundation in facing life on this earth. For when we look at circumstances we can wander where the good is. Our governments, our environment, our diseases, our weather, our famines, our wars, our losses, our finances do not seem to showcase anything good. So we question how Good can be in control when there is so much bad.

The life of Joseph illustrates this point. Joseph was one of twelve sons of Jacob. He was also Jacob's favorite son. The brothers were jealous of their father's affection towards Joseph. So, they sold him into slavery. Joseph suffered many hardships in his new country of Egypt: forced labor, victim of false accusations, prison. Nothing looked good. One day he was summoned before Pharaoh himself. Joseph was able to interpret a dream that the Pharaoh had, informed him that after seven years of abundant harvest, there would be seven years of famine. He advised creating storehouses to prepare for the coming hardship. Pharaoh placed Joseph in charge. During the time of famine, Joseph's brothers came to buy grain. After a series of circumstances, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers. They were frightened, knowing Joseph had the opportunity to get revenge for what they had done to him. Later on Joseph summed up the matter:

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Application

God is good. Praise God for this truth.

Can you say with confidence that God is good? Would you be willing to ask God to help you to fully believe this truth?

How can you focus on the fact that God is good despite your circumstances?

How will the realizing that God is good change your life today?

DAY 2

Today's Scripture:

Matthew 5:45, 7:9-11; Romans 8:28

The Word

Christmas is a time when children are full of excitement. They are looking forward to all the gifts they will receive. Children who are hard to get out of bed for school will rise up before dawn to wake up parents who had been up all night putting together all the toys. Parents will exert time, energy, and resources in order to see the child's eye sparkle with pure glee as they see the gifts under the tree. This is only a small comparison of all the good that God shows us.

Matthew 7:9-11

⁹Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Verse 9: Parents are expected to be good to their children. When a child asks for something, they will make an effort to give it to them. In the verse, the child is asking for "bread". Bread was a staple for Jews. It was eaten daily. So, a child asking for bread is asking for a daily, basic, common need. It is the bare necessities. A parent is responsible for provision.

They were also not to deceive their children. For the bread of that time period looked similar to the stones of that area: round and flat. (*Manners and Customs of the Bible* by James M. Freeman). To give a child a stone would be a short-term deception of looking like you met the need but would leave your child empty.

Verse 10: Parents are also called to listen and respond to a true need of a child, not just make a sloppy and worthless effort. Fish and snakes are both animals. However, only one can help with the need whereas the other could instill fear. This "answer" to their request could be harmful to the child and be damaging to the parent-child relationship.

Verse 11: This illustration of parents responding to children's needs is showing the vast difference between the goodness of people versus God. We, within ourselves, are evil. We are born with a sin nature and are prone to do what is wrong. Yet somehow, we still can do intentionally good things when we choose to do so. Yet even in our "best" moments, we cannot compare to the God who is good.

By understanding the benefits of our good actions, we can relate to God who is good to us. If we want what is best for our children, how much more does God want what is best for us as His children? We strive to meet the needs of our children. Yet, God does not need to work to produce what is needed to provide for us. In the words of James MacDonald, the pastor of Harvest Bible chapel, says "God can help us with His feet up". He does not have to be in a panic or exert effort or hope He can answer. God can easily give us what is good. We desire to answer our children. How much more does

God want to answer us? God is good and because of His nature He is good to us. God is not good to us because we are good to Him.

Matthew 5:45

⁴⁵...He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Verse 45: God is good out of His nature. It is not dependent on us. He gives life, breath, beating hearts, food, water, shelter and so much more to believers as well as unbelievers. Because God is good, He does good, and everyone receives benefits of His goodness. Just like a parent should not just give provision (food, shelter, clothing) to a child just on the days he was good. However, God is especially good to those who are His children.

Romans 8:28

²⁸...And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Verse 28: God is good to all for God is good. However, for those who love Him, there is a greater exertion by God to showcase His goodness in their lives. God is good to everyone but not everyone is willing to receive His nature. Those who are willing, who love Him, who are called by Him, they are in a place to see and experience more of the God who is good. We will explore further into this truth in tomorrow's lesson.

Application

All of Scripture teaches us. Pray to God and ask Him to show you what He desires for you to learn from this tragic story.

Write an example of a time when you know you experienced the goodness of God.

If God can be good to us "with His feet up" why do we not trust His goodness?

What does it mean to you that God is good to the righteous as well as the unrighteous?



Today's Scripture:

Psalm 34:8, 119:103, Philippians 1:6

The Word

We ended the study yesterday with the realization that those who love God are in a position to see and experience the goodness of God.

Psalm 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good...

Verse 8: The physical senses allow us to experience the world. They allow us to take in the information of our environment. Here, this verse is stating that we have the ability to test God, to prove Him true to His Word.

God has stated He is good. He is willing to prove that fact to you. He does not make wild claims that cannot be verified. Instead, He is willing for the hypothesis of "God is good" to be put to the test. This is open to everyone willing to take God at His Word. In order to put it to the test, you must make an effort. If I told you that an a chocolate pie was good to eat, you cannot prove my statement true until you yourself had a piece of it. You must experience the chocolate yourself in order to make the statement true for yourself. The same is true about God. He can tell us He is good but we cannot live in the truth of this statement until we have experienced it.

To taste something involves ingesting it, taking it in within yourself. We need to ingest the truth of God.

Psalm 119:103

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Verse 103: The Word of God is meant to be taken in, ingested. We need to read and learn to understand the truth of God. Then, we will grow in the realization that God is good. However, to know something is not the same as to feel it. We may know God is good but what does that have to do with our lives. We need to see God at work. To see something, you must be in close proximity, nothing can hinder your vision. You need a clear view to take it in. We need to clearly see the goodness of God in our lives. How do we do that? By looking to the good we have already experienced.

Philippians 1:6

⁶...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Verse 6: There has been good in your life. It is time to look at it. Really look and see all the ways God has been good to you. He has already begun a good work in you and He plans to continue. Once we realize the good of God then we can trust Him in any

circumstances. For we know: God is good, that means He can only be good, which means that any event which comes my way is somehow allowed in the goodness of God so that He can complete His good work in me. I can trust God for He is good. Only believers can experience this. A lost world hopes that maybe God is good but they cannot rest assuredly on this attribute of God. But because we are aware of the fact that God is good, we can clearly experience, taste and see that God is good, in all circumstances. In fact, let us read the original verse in today's study with the segment that follows it.

Psalm 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

When do you need to take refuge? During difficult times. Yet, we are talking about God's goodness, how does that relate? When you have experienced the goodness of God, you can trust Him even during times of difficulty. God is good, all the time. We have experienced this truth and can trust His goodness to be with us no matter what we must face in this life.

Application

Thank the Lord for the good work He has begun in you. Ask Him to open your eyes to see more of the truth that He is good

List examples of how you have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.

How can knowing God is good help us during difficult times?

What are practical ways we can "taste and see that the Lord is good"?

DAY 4

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 3:1-7, John 8:44, Hebrews 5:12-14

The Word

God is good. Since He is good, He alone can define what good is. Often, we try to come up with our definitions of good. This is as diverse as the people themselves. For what one considers good, another may have another opinion. This can lead to problems that are as old as the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:1-7

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Verse 1: The serpent, a.k.a. Satan, is crafty. He is a manipulative liar. He tries to get you from looking at all the good things in your life (all the trees in the garden) and focus on the one boundary God has placed on you.

Verse 2: The Lord had given them all of the Garden of Eden. Paradise surrounded them. God is good to us; He blesses us so much. The enemy would have you focus on the one thing God said "No" to instead of all the wonderful things He has said "yes" to. There is a misconception about God that makes Him sound like He enjoys saying "No" and wants us to be miserable. Yet, the truth is that God's plan for Adam and Eve was paradise, filled with the "yeses" of everything they could want.

Verse 4-5: The enemy defined a new definition of what God had said. God, who is good, gave Adam and Eve a boundary for their protection. The serpent made it sound like God was withholding good from them. This new definition to what God had said led to disaster.

Verse 6-7: Eve looked at the boundary with a new definition for what is "good" and ate the fruit and gave it also to Adam. Of course, the consequences of this action are still being felt today.

What could have been done differently? How can we learn from their mistakes to prevent us from wreaking havoc on our own lives? We learned the answer yesterday.

Psalm 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

Verse 8: Taste and see: these are the same actions Eve did. *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food (taste) and pleasing to the eye (see)...she took some and ate it.*

Each day we have a choice, we can decide to experience (taste and see) the Lord who is good or we can experience our own definitions of what is good, which the enemy will gladly put on our paths. The enemy is a deceiver. He will do anything to make you believe that his way is good and not God's.

John 8:44

⁴⁴...the devil...when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Verse 44: The devil is a liar. He promises "good" but his path leads to destruction. Eve was the first to experience this terrible truth. Everything he said led her away from paradise. He desires to do the same in our day. He will lie and tell you something is good for you for he knows that it will lead to your demise. He wants to destroy you. If you are a believer in Christ, the enemy cannot take away your salvation, but he would love to ruin your life on earth. He enjoys it when you fall into sin.

How can we be protected? We must know the true definition of what is good and follow it. Only God can define what is good: not the culture, not the media, not friends, not schools, not even a church. The only way good can be defined is by the Word of God. If any group decides to define "good" using any other standard, they have set themselves up for failure for it is truly something evil.

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Verse 12-14: We need to continually grow in God's Word by constantly using it in our lives. This leads us to growing in understanding between good and evil. The Bible is the only standard for what is good. We must go to it for making decisions so that we can choose to be on the good path that God desires for us. Then, we will be to easily discern the lies of the enemy.

Application

Ask God to show you if there is any area in your life where you have conceived your own definition of what is good for you. Confess this sin and ask Him to lead you into the truth of what is good.

What other groups in your “world” try to define what is good for your life?

Do you believe the enemy tries to convince people of other definitions of what is “good”? If so, what example can you give.

How do we train ourselves in the Word in order to distinguish between good and evil?



Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1, Mark 1:15, 16:15

The Word

God, who is good, has something He wants to say to us. What He wants to say is good. Everything He says is good. He is good so His word is good. Christ had a special mission to help us to understand this truth.

Isaiah 61:1

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

Verse 1: This was a prophecy about Christ. The Lord was going to send Him to earth to preach a message of good news. That is exactly what He did.

Mark 1:15

¹⁵ “The time has come,” He said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.”

Jesus came to earth to tell the good news to people. He felt the message was so important that He left the beauty of heaven to come to this dusty earth. He allowed His glory to be wrapped up in skin. He confined Himself to the laws of gravity, time, and space. He did all of this to share the good news. That is how important it was to Him. Not only that, He commands us to teach it as well.

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

What is this good news? What does the God who is good want to tell us? Why did He send His Son to teach this message? Why is it vital for us to go and tell others? It must be good, what is it? It is summed up in one sentence.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Verse 16: Are you disappointed? Did you skim the verse because it seemed too familiar? Can I rebuke all of us? This is the good news. We should be more excited about this than ESPN or whatever else that makes us cheer. Yet, often we get bored with what God Himself called the “good news”. The entire Word of God was to help us understand this amazing “good news”.

What is this “good news”? First of all, God loves us. Really think about that: you are loved by God. This is the ultimate expression of His goodness, to love such unworthy creatures as us. He then expressed His goodness by giving us an amazing gift, His Son. He gave us a gift that we abused, mistreated, and crucified. He knew all of that yet He still gave His Son. For in His divine purpose He knew that the relationship He wanted with us was only possible by His perfect Son dying on a cross. All we have to do is believe in Him and we will have eternal life. That is good news, planned by Good Himself, orchestrated by Good Himself, proclaimed by Good Himself, and carried out by Good Himself.

For us to grasp the idea of “God is good”, we need to look no further than the cross.

Application

God is good. He has shown us His goodness over and over again. If we truly believe it, then we will tell others the “good news” proclaimed to us by a Good God. Ask the Lord to show you someone to whom you can tell this good news!

How can we reclaim the excitement about the good news?

How can we share with others the good news?