

Genesis Topic 2: The Goodness of God:

1. **God pronounced everything he made “good” and when He put the man and woman together He pronounced it “very good.”**
1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31
 - **Good is that which God creates and pronounces “good.”**
 - **What does good mean? It has value and/or is beneficial to self or others.**
 - **To consider evil that which God calls good is blasphemy.**

2. **God’s goodness describes the totality of His Essence. Questioning it is a result of our Sin Nature.**

3. **His goodness is evident. (It is seen in His)**
 - **Instruction. Psa 25:8** Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
 - **Sanctuary. Psa 34:8** taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
 - **Loyal love. Psa 69:16** Answer me, O Lord, for Your lovingkindness is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me, **Psa 106:1** Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. **Psa 136:1** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
 - **Forgiveness. Psa 86:5** For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.
 - **Faithfulness. Psa 100:3-5** Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. 5 For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.
 - **Worthiness of praise. Psa 135:3** Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
 - **Extent of grace. Psa 145:8-9** The Lord is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. 9 The Lord is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.
 - **Unique Perfection. Mark 10:17-18** As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

4. **Satan’s first attack was on God’s goodness. Gen 3:1-7**
 - **It worked quite well there. It has worked well throughout history. Why would he stop using it now?**
 - **There is a counterfeit good. Gen 2:9**

5. **Satan questions God's "good" when:**
- He doesn't answer our prayers the way we want Him to.
 - Lose a loved one through death, divorce.
 - Someone doesn't turn out the way we wanted them to.
 - People don't listen to our wisdom.
 - We have ailments that won't leave.
 - Love ones have ailments that won't leave.
 - We financially struggle through life.
 - Political outcomes.

6. **We fall prey to the evil one's deception when we fail to trust His goodness and "rest in Him." Heb 4:1-2**

Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

7. **If left unchecked, questioning God's goodness will result in bitterness and damage others. Heb 12:15-16**

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many may be defiled; 16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

- We blame others for our shortcomings.
- We project on others our sins.

8. **Consider the extent of His goodness to us. James 1:17**

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

A. He only gives good gifts.

Everything good in this world comes from God. If it did not come from God, it is not good. If it comes from God, it must be good, even if we do not see the goodness in it immediately. Paul's thorn in the flesh was given to him by God and it seemed to be a strange gift; yet it became a tremendous blessing to him (2 Cor 12:1-10).

B. The way He gives is good.

It is possible for someone to give us a gift in a manner that is less than loving. The value of a gift can be diminished by the way it is given to us. But when God gives us a blessing, He does it in a loving, gracious manner. What He gives and how He gives are both good.

C. His giving is constant.

God does not give occasionally; He gives constantly. Even when we do not see His gifts, He is sending them. How do we know this? Because He tells us so and we believe His Word.

D. He does not change.

There are no shadows with the Father of Lights. It is impossible for God to change. He cannot change for the worse because He is holy; He cannot change for the better because He is already perfect. The light of the sun varies as the earth changes, but the sun itself is still shining. He is the unchanging God. This means that we should never question His love or doubt His goodness when difficulties come or temptations appear.

9. God wants only good for us. Rom 8:28 C.T.

And we know that to the ones loving the God He works together all things into good, to those being called ones according to plan.

- **The “good” in view involves things that are not inherently good. Thus it includes all our experiences, sins and trials.**
- **Valid question: Am I part of the “called” and thus part of His purpose and plan? According to context, the “calling” is a result of faith *in* Jesus Christ, not a calling to faith in Jesus Christ. Rom 1:2-7 The “calling” is to a particular area of service. Rom 1:1-2**

10. God also wants us to only do good. Heb 13:15-16

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

A. This requires submission. Rom 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

B. And transformation. Phil 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

C. For eternal rewards. 2 Cor 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11. He one day desires to commend our “good.” Matt 25:21

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

12. We must learn to look at life through God’s eyes.

**13. Belief in His goodness will affect our Prayers, our Attitude and our Life. We will be His PAL.
(Marriage, Family, Death, Economy, Politics)**