

God Is Good – All the Time!

Mark N. Posey

I was taught to pray, "God is Great, God is Good!" We sing and pray about it. Paul identified the "goodness of God" as a motivational factor in repentance (Romans 2:4). David said, "For the Lord is good, His loving-kindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 100:5). What involves God's Goodness?

God Is Infinitely Good

Infinity is the term used to describe something that cannot be counted or measured, and God is certainly limitless and immeasurable (2 Chronicles 2:5-6; Psalm 145:3; Jeremiah 23:24). God is good because this is His nature, and He is the standard of moral right. Yet, He also allows evil to exist. He is not the source or promoter of evil; He is the everlasting giver and demonstrator of goodness. His goodness is demonstrated by giving Jesus as the sacrifice for sin (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God Is Intrinsically Good

Intrinsic is the term used to describe something that is good-in-itself (i.e., good by itself). Thus, intrinsic good is good for its own sake alone; it is not a means to an end. It stands alone as being good, needing no aid or assistance. God's "goodness" cannot be measured by human standards. It is so perfect and composed of so many numerous and diverse features or facets that it cannot be altered by outside forces. His "goodness" is eternal (Exodus 33:19; 34:5-6; Psalm 27:13; Matthew 19:17). God stands alone in supreme goodness.

God Is Instrumentally Good

Instrumental is the term used to describe something that leads to some other good (i.e., education leads to success; money leads to retirement, etc.). **Outwardly**, the goodness of God leads to humility, unity and service (Philippians 2:1-4). **Inwardly**, the goodness of God leads to His riches, forbearance and patience (Romans 2:4). David said, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13). Thus, God's goodness fortifies our hearts, souls, minds and strength to focus on eternity, not on the pleasures of this world (Colossians 3:1-4).

Conclusion

The stanzas of an old refrain say, "God is so good; He's so good to me." We can all sing this song because He is good to all of us personally, in ways that meet our specific and individual needs. The provision of salvation is the great manifestation of God's Goodness, so that we can truly say, "God is Good – All the time!"

~ Gospel Gazette Online ~

God will never be outdone in generosity.

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: ALL services are now at the church building. **Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.** The Covid-19 restrictions (masks & distancing) still apply.

IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY: Each Sunday, 7:30 a.m., WTRF, Channel 7 (Wheeling), ending on this channel next Sunday, Nov. 15th. Now and each succeeding Sunday at 8:30 a.m., WTOV, Channel 9 (Steubenville).

PANTRY: Fruit.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Jenny Rhodes, Cam Adamson, Charlie Delong, Marlene Evans, Shirley Beagle, Russell Martin, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 110). **BERKELEY SPRINGS REHABILITATION CENTER:** Ernest Robinson, 456 Autumn Acres Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411. **ORCHARDS OF EL REHAB:** Rich Owen. **IN TENNESSEE:** Steve Higginbotham (address on bulletin board). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

THE MAN OF FAITH

*The man of faith needs courage strong,
Or he will lose the fight;
Hence VIRTUE must be added,
Then he'll dare to do the right.*

*The man of faith the truth must find,
Or he will go astray;
Hence KNOWLEDGE must be added,
So he'll learn how to obey.*

*The man of faith must conquer self,
Or lust will lead to shame;
Hence TEMPERANCE must be added,
So he'll honor Jesus' name.*

*The man of faith must steadfast be,
Lest he should lose the race;
Hence PATIENCE must be added,
As he grows and grows in grace.*

*The man of faith must holy be,
Or else his soul goes down;
Hence GODLINESS must be added,
To help him win the crown.*

*The man of faith needs gentleness,
So he will suffer long;
Hence KINDNESS must be added,
If he sings the victor's song.*

*The man of faith must upward climb,
To reach the home above;
The greatest must be added,
And the greatest thing is LOVE.*

J. D. Boyd (*Bulletin Digest*)

When He Comes

One of the greatest certainties expressed in the New Testament is the fact that Christ will come again. Paul makes it clear that "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God..." (1 Thess. 4:16). But when He comes, what about me? Let's look at some very real questions:

1. Will I be dead or alive at His coming? It doesn't really matter one way or the other. Paul said that "we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep" (1 Thess. 4:15).

2. Will I have time to prepare? You have a lifetime. Isn't that enough? Or do you mean last minute preparation? The change is going to be "in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:52), so don't count on the "last minute."

3. Will the Lord overlook my shortcomings? "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12). Do you expect the Lord to gloss over your sins?

4. Will I be ready? Only you can answer that question. Bear in mind that "it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31).

- Gene Carrell (*Bulletin Digest*) -