

Attributes of God (Goodness)

*The goodness of God is infinitely more wonderful than we will ever be able to comprehend (Incomprehensibility). A. W. Tozer

Verses on God's goodness:

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Psalm 100:1-5 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. ² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. ³ 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.

Psalm 106:1 Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalm 118:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

God is good to all His creation, His creatures/animals

- **Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31** In creation, God said "it was good"
- **Psalm 145:9, 15-16** The LORD is good to all, *And* His mercies are over all His works. The eyes of all look to You, *And* You give them their food in due time. ¹⁶ You open Your hand *And* satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Animals

- **Matthew 6:26** Look at the birds of the ^[a]air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
- **Job 38:39-39:30**
- **Psalm 104:27-28** They all wait for You To give them their food in due season. ²⁸ You give to them, they gather *it* up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good.

God shows goodness to the unbelievers. This is referred to as common grace. It is not redemptive or salvific grace

- **Matthew 5:45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.
- **Acts 14:14-17** But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM ¹⁶ In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; ¹⁷ and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."
 - o God allows the unbeliever to experience good things: marriage, kids, education, work, promotions, good careers, inventing things, enjoying trips, friends, good weather, etc
 - o God is so good to the unbeliever sometimes that the believer can't quite grasp it and if not careful accuse God of being unfair. **Psalm 73**

God extends a special goodness to His elect. This is salvific grace, love, and goodness: *God is good in salvation*

- **Ephesians 1:3-14**
- **Ephesians 2:1-10, Eph 2:10** = *good* works prepared in advance for us.
- **Psalm 65:4** How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple
- The gospel is the good news. **Romans 10:15**
- The Good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep. **John 10**
- "Joy is a quiet gladness of heart as one contemplates the goodness of God's saving grace in Christ Jesus." John Calvin

God is good in His will and His plans (including trials)

- **Phil 2:13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.
- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this ^lworld, 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.

- **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.
- **Romans 8:28** And we know that ^[a]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 - Satan wants us to forget or doubt the goodness of God in our trials.
 - Martin Luther once said “if God told me to eat dung from off the streets, not only would I eat it, but I would know it was for my good.
 - God is good and only good even when the things we experience are not “good” in our eyes. He is immutably good.
- *Remember the goodness of God in the frost of adversity. C.H Spurgeon*
- *When we are broken because of increased hardship, we simply have to trust in the goodness of God. Steve Farrar*

God is good in His provision to the elect

- **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.
- **Matt 7:7-11** Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!
- **Psalms 84:11** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

God is good in his protection

- **Nahum 1:7** The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him
- **Psalms 31:19** How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of men!
- **John 10**- the Good Shepherd

God is good in forgiveness

- **Micah 7:18-19** Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.
- **Psalms 86:5** For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.

*There is nothing good in us, except Christ (**Romans 7:18, Romans 3:12**). And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone (**Luke 18:19**)

- God is not under a law to be good, He is just good which is the nature of His being.
- He always immutably acts according to his character and nature which is eternally and intrinsically good.
- He is not only the ultimate standard in good, but He is the source of all goodness
- He is immutably good!
- *Knowing who God is, is vital. If we know that He is immutable and we know He is good and only good, then in the good times and also in the devastating and painful times, we can trust and rejoice because He has not ever stopped or cannot ever stop being good!
- What is our response to His goodness” **Psalms 118:1**
- Why do good things happen to bad people? It happened once and He volunteered.
- God is good all the time and all the time God is good!