



THE GOODNESS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 1:31 we read, *Then God saw everything that He had made, and, indeed it was very good.* However, when man disobeyed God, his heart became darkened. Since then, the Bible has recorded the steady downward spiral of man's sinful state. Deceived, he has tried to convince himself that he is basically good, but history and his own conscience tell him otherwise. Jesus said . . . *no one is good but One, that is, God* . . . (Matthew 19:17). Still, God has made known to every man's heart the knowledge of good and evil. He has also revealed the fullness and reality of His Goodness through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

THEME SCRIPTURE

Oh, taste¹ and see that the LORD is good; blessed² is the man who trusts³ in Him (Psalm 34:8)!

¹ taste – Hebrew *taam* to taste: to perceive, open your eyes of understanding.

² blessed – Hebrew *esher* happiness: happy.

³ trusts – Hebrew *chasah* to flee for protection: to have hope, make refuge, confide in.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *goodness*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The quality or state of being good, moral excellence, virtue, kindly feeling, kindness, generosity, excellence of quality, best part of anything; essence; strength.

Biblical Definitions

There are several Biblical Hebrew words for *goodness* in the Old Testament. One is *tuwb* which means good: best, beauty, gladness, welfare, fair, joy, go well with.

Another Hebrew word is *cheved* kindness: pretty, lovingkindness, mercy, beauty, bounty, good deeds, cheer and pleasure.

There are several Biblical Greek words for God's *goodness* in the New Testament. One is *agathosune* which means moral excellence, virtue, worth, honor, righteousness, purity, generosity and lovingkindness.

Another Greek word is *chrestotes* usefulness (morally): excellence in character or demeanor; gentleness, good, kindness.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scripture references about God's goodness. UNDERLINE a word or phrase that describes the goodness of God.

Exodus 34:6 *And the LORD passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.'*

Psalm 31:19 *Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!*

Psalm 33:5 *He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.*

Psalm 52:1 *Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually.*

Psalm 65:4 *Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple.*

Psalm 107:9 *For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.*

Jeremiah 31:14 *'I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance [of offerings shared with them], and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness,' says the LORD.*

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness . . .*

3. What did you learn about God's goodness from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted you? _____

SECTION II – God's Goodness Toward Man

The Woman That Was a Sinner

READ Luke 7:36-50.

1. Who asked Jesus to eat with Him (v. 36)? _____⁴

2. DESCRIBE the woman who came to Jesus as He sat down at the table (vv. 37, 38)? _____

What did she bring with her? _____

⁴ Pharisee: separatists; closely organized Jewish religious group who pledged themselves to obey all facets of the religious traditions. They believed they alone could interpret God and His Word. They bitterly opposed Jesus and His teachings.

What was her unabashed worship and devotion toward Jesus? _____

3. What was the Pharisee thinking as he witnessed the scene (v. 39)? _____

5

4. How did Jesus and the Pharisees address each other (v. 40)? _____

5. What was the lesson to be learned from the parable⁶ that Jesus taught (vv. 41-43)? _____

How did Jesus respond to Simon's answer? _____

6. Christ reproved Simon. DESCRIBE the contrast between Simon's actions toward Christ and the woman's actions toward Him (vv. 44-46).

⁵ prophet: one who is divinely inspired to communicate God's will to His people and disclose the future to them.

⁶ parable: a short simple story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson.

7. How did Jesus conclude the matter with the self-righteous Simon and with the woman who was a sinner (vv. 47, 48)?

8. What were the thoughts of those who were sitting with Christ at the table (v. 49)?

9. How did Jesus demonstrate His goodness toward this sinful woman (v. 50)?

PERSONAL

Who is Christ to you?

How has Christ shown His goodness to you?

LOOK DEEPER

READ Matthew 9:1-8. CONTRAST the goodness of Christ toward the paralytic and the evil thoughts of the scribes.⁷

Two Blind Men from Jericho

READ Luke 18:35-43.

⁷ scribes – Greek *grammateis* experts versed in the law: a class of learned men who made the systematic study and its exposition their occupation. Writers and transcribers of the law.

1. Who did Jesus encounter when He was coming near Jericho (v. 35)? _____

Matthew records that there were two blind men sitting by the road begging (Matthew 20:30).

2. Hearing the multitude passing by, what did the blind man ask (Luke 18:36)? _____

3. Who was passing by (vv. 37, 38)? _____
What did the blind man cry out? _____

4. What did the merciless multitude warn the blind man (v. 39)? _____

What did they cry out instead? _____

5. In His infinite goodness, how did Jesus respond to the blind man (vv. 40, 41)? _____

How did the blind man address Jesus and what was his request? _____

6. What did Jesus do in response (v. 42)? _____

What does Matthew 20:34 add to this encounter? _____

7. What did the blind men do (Luke 18:43)? _____

What did the multitude do? _____

PERSONAL

TELL of a time you were facing a desperate situation crying out to Jesus and those around you tried to discourage you. How did you react?

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Goodness

LOOK-UP each Scripture, and MATCH it up to its corresponding statement.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ Psalm 25:8 | a. God’s goodness provides rain, food and gladness |
| _____ Psalm 27:13 | b. God’s goodness manifested in forgiving sins |
| _____ Psalm 68:10 | c. the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living |
| _____ Psalm 86:5 | d. God’s goodness is prepared for the poor |
| _____ Psalm 119:68 | e. God is good and does good |
| _____ Nahum 1:7 | f. no one is good but God |
| _____ Matthew 19:17 | g. the Lord is good in the day of trouble |
| _____ Acts 14:17 | h. the LORD is good and upright |

PERSONAL

WRITE the one Scripture through which God spoke to you the most. _____

What one thought did God minister to you through that Scripture? _____

PERSONAL

James 1:17 says, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variation or shadow of turning.*

LIST below some good and perfect gifts the Father has given to you because of His abundant goodness.

WRITE THE THEME SCRIPTURE

(Psalm 34:8).

*Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Psalm 23:6

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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