

GOD IS GOOD

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the fact that we serve a God who is Good.
2. Ps. 100:5 "For the LORD [is] good; his mercy [is] everlasting; and his truth [endureth] to all generations."
3. In researching the Doctrine of God, there are many books written about His Holiness, Power, Love, etc.
4. But to find much about the Goodness of God is difficult.
 - a. Not because there is not much in the Bible
 - b. Maybe it's one of those "taken for granted" topics
5. Everyone knows God is good, but have you ever studied the subject? Today we will.

Discussion

I. UNDERSTANDING THE TERM "GOOD"

- A. What do we mean when we say something is "good"?
 1. "suitable for a purpose" a jeep is good for driving in mud.
 2. "beneficial", hot lunches are good for children
 3. "valid, genuine", as good as gold
 4. "sound, healthy", his eyesight is good
 5. "honorable", a good name
 6. "enjoyable, happy", the life here is good
 7. "complying with a set of rules", her manners are good.
 8. "skilled", a good swimmer, a good singer
 9. "a considerable amount, degree", a good beating
 10. "morally sound", he is a good person

B. In philosophy, "good" is divided into two types:

1. **"Extrinsic"**, depends upon some external object for it's goodness (medicine is "good" only if properly used, not good by its nature)
2. **"Intrinsic"**, good of itself, without depending on something else (David had a heart (mind) that was good)

C. Francis Hall, in Theological Outlines, says, "A good person may mean either:

1. One who possesses desirable qualities,
2. Or one who wants to give desirable things to others"

D. Though definitions may at times be confusing, the Bible simply says that the Lord is Good!

1. Ps. 106:1 "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for [he is] good: for his mercy [endureth] for ever."
2. Mt 19:17 "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."
3. Eternal opposition to all badness and evil

E. Quote: Arthur Pink, The Attributes of God, as quoted by J.J. Turner's Doctrine of the Godhead": "He is originally good, good of Himself, which nothing else is; for all creatures are good only by participation and communication with God. He is essentially good; not only good, but goodness itself...He is infinitely good; the creature's good is but a drop, but in God there is an infinite ocean or gathering together of good. He is eternally and immutably good, for He cannot be less good than He is; as there can be no addition made to Him, so no subtraction from Him"

II. GOD IS THE STANDARD OF ALL THAT IS GOOD

- A. When the scripture describe what is good, God is held up as the standard,
1. Ps 25:8 "Good and upright [is] the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way." Upright = acting according to His promise, equal and just in dealings
 2. Nah 1:7 "The LORD [is] good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."
- B. God depends upon no other being for His goodness:¹
1. It is in Him and this is His Characteristic - it is eternal
 2. His goodness is not derived from another if so then that being would be greater than God.
- C. He is the norm, judge, decider of what is good, Mk 10: 18 "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God." - supreme goodness belongs only to God !
- D. Ps. 52:1 "Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God [endureth] continually."
- E. It is necessary that God is Good²
1. He is as necessarily good, as he is necessarily God.
 2. His goodness is as inseparable from His nature as His holiness.

III. GOD'S WORKS ARE GOOD

- A. Step by step, as God created the world, He examined it and declared it to be good.
1. Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25
 2. He then surveyed the whole of creation, and said it was "very good", Gen 1:31
 3. Because God is good than all that He created is also "good".
 4. It is not necessary that God should create the world. But when He resolves to make the world, it is necessary that He should make it good. He could not create anything without goodness in the very act. ³
- B. This creation is part of the way God reveals Himself to us, Rom 1:19,20 "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"
- C. All that God does is good, Ps 119:68 "Thou [art] good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes."

IV. GOD'S GIFTS ARE GOOD, (some of our gifts are not good, hurt (candy), etc)

- A. God's gifts express his beneficence, love and mercy toward His creation.
1. They are for the good of God's creatures, James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
 2. "God is the highest goodness, because He doth not act for His own profit, but for His creatures' welfare, and the manifestation of His own goodness."⁴

3. He does good to all men,
 - a. Mt 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."
 - b. Lk 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and [to] the evil."
 - c. Acts 14:17 "Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."
4. He especially gives good gifts to His children,
 - a. Mt 7:11 "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"
 - b. Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
- B. God guarantees that for the Christian, "all things work together for good", Rom 8:28
 1. Chastening is for our good, Heb 12:10 "For they verily for a few days chastened [us] after their own pleasure; but he for [our] profit, that [we] might be partakers of his holiness."
 2. Testing of faith, James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

3. James 1:12 "Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
4. Persecutions,
 - a. I I Cor 4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory;"
 - b. Ps 119:65-68 "Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word. 66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments. 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. 68 Thou [art] good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes."
 - c. Ps. 119:71 "[I t is] good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."
- C. The many promises and restrictions are all for our good, because God is good.

V. GOD'S COMMANDS ARE GOOD, (many of our laws are not good: abortion, no prayer

in school, civil unions, polygamy, loopholes, etc)

- A. God's Laws are a reflection of His Holy nature, through holy laws.
- B. His commandments are a revelation of His moral perfection.
- C. Our goal is to become like God, Mt 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

D. His laws are given for that very purpose,

1. John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly."
2. Heb 5:8,9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

Conclusion:

1. One of the greatest compliments a man can receive is that someone would say, "He is a good man" Mmm Mmm Good (Campbell Soup)
2. Well, I can tell you"God is Good"
 - a. He set the standard by which we measure goodness
 - b. His goodness is the ideal
3. His goodness should lead us to repent, Rom 2:4
4. Ps 107:1,8 "O give thanks unto the LORD, for [he is] good: for his mercy [endureth] for ever." V. 8 "Oh that [men] would praise the LORD [for] his goodness, and [for] his wonderful works to the children of men!"

Endnotes

1. P. 211 The Existence and Attributes of God - Vol. 2 - Charnock
2. P. 224 Charnock
3. P. 224 Charnock
- 4.P.219 Charnock

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