

The Persistent Goodness of God

Introduction:

- A. **[God is so good – Song]**
- B. **[Bro. Tim – “God is good all the time and all the time God is good”]**
- C. As you study the Bible you will find that God is indeed good.
 - a. He is good morally – Holy, Righteous, & Just
 - b. He is good in His integrity – True, Honest, & Faithful
 - c. He is good in His love – Benevolent, Gracious, & Merciful
 - d. God is the standard of goodness...
- D. God is good and He is good towards us.
- E. If you are breathing this morning, you have experienced the Goodness of God!
- F. 'But what is the reason for God's continued goodness towards us?'
- G. Romans 2:4
- H. *“There is life changing power in the persistence of God's goodness.”*
- I. For those who walk with Jesus know that God is good.
- J. We have *“tasted that the Lord is good.”* – 1 Pet. 2:3 ESV
- K. What is there to know about God's persistent goodness?
- L. 2 Questions:
 - I. How is God persistently good?
 - a. Paul speaks of “the riches of His goodness”...
 - b. *“Goodness”* – is God's loving-kindness towards us.
 - c. God is “rich” in goodness. {Paul loves that word}
 - d. *“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* – Eph. 2:7
 - e. And daily, God graciously bestows kindness on **all** mankind.
 - f. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* – Jam. 1:17
 - g. There is no variation of the intensity of God's goodness towards us.
 - h. Paul takes us deeper by speaking of God's “forbearance.”
 - i. This reference of forbearance in connecton to God's goodness refers to His tolerance towards us, even while we yet sin.
 - j. 'Forbearance' comes from a word that means “a conditional or temporary truce”...
 - k. Thus during this time in life, God is holding back His hostilities, His judgment for a season.
 - l. **[We deserve instant judgment – Adam & Eve]**
 - m. And to take us even deeper into God's goodness Paul tells us that God is “longsuffering.”
 - n. That is God exercises divine patience towards us.
 - o. God has to power to avenge Himself and exact justice, yet He deliberately does not do it.
 - p. While forbearance speaks of God's holding back of judgment, longsuffering refers to the duration of that time.
 - q. **[Israel under Moses, David as King, & Peter as an apostle – Pictures of patience]**
 - r. God is patiently waiting, but we must not mistake God's patience as weakness!
 - s. But to truly understand God's goodness, we must understand the true wickedness of man...
 - t. **[How could God be good, if the world is evil?]**
 - u. {Goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering = I have sinned, I do sin, & I will sin – John Wesley}
 - v. If you want to see the goodness of God...look to Jesus!
 - w. {Jesus' life is the picture of God's goodness – Goodness incarnate!}
 - “2nd Question...”
 - II. Why is God persistently good?
 - a. There is a reason God continues to show goodness on all mankind, even though we go on century after century in our wickedness and sin...

- b. “not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance”
- c. God continues to show us goodness, because it is His goodness that leads more and more people to repentance.
- d. This is the very reason God’s coming judgment of all mankind hasn’t happened yet...
- e. *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* – 2 Pet. 3:9
- f. God does not delight in the death and destruction of people...
- g. *“Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.”* – Ezek. 18:23 NLT
- h. God longs for people to repent and be saved!
- i. {Repent – do an about-face & have a changed mind and attitude}
- j. God’s goodness leads us to see the gravity of our badness and causes us to change course...
- k. *“For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.”* – 2 Cor. 7:10 NLT
- l. God continues to be good towards us so that we will have repentance towards Him and faith towards His Son Jesus Christ!
- m. **[God’s honey vs. vinegar approach]**
- n. Thus if you know Jesus today as your Lord and Savior it is because of the goodness of God!
- o. *“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior”* – Tit. 3:4-6 ESV
- p. **[The goodness displayed in the cross]**

Conclusion

- A. Christians we must never stop glorifying God for His goodness!
 - a. Let His goodness show in your life.
 - b. *“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”* – Lk. 6:35
- B. “Do you despise the riches of His goodness?”
 - a. *“despise”* – to think down on, scorn, to underestimate the value of
 - b. Don’t second guess God’s goodness towards you...
 - c. Don’t think “His judgment won’t happen to me”!