**GOD MOST GOOD**

**Psm 119:68 “You (God) are good and what You do is good.”**

Introduction:

In our culture, we often greet one another and say, “How are you doing?”, and we typically respond by saying, “We are good.”

What does that mean? It means life isn’t going too bad. We are making it. We are okay. But what does it mean to say, “God is good”?

I. It is an expression of **who He is**: God is good.

 A. God is kindhearted, gracious, good-natured and benevolent.

 B. God never thinks any bad thoughts about anybody.

 C. I John 1:5 says, “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” – God is infinitely good, free of any shadow or darkness.

 D. God is unchangingly good. His goodness never wavers. He is always good.

 E. God’s goodness radiates through all His other attributes. Otherwise, His sovereignty, omnipotence, omniscience would cause us terror but because they are good, they can bring us comfort.

 F. God is the origin of all good.

II. It is an expression of **what He does:** God does good. What aspects of God’s goodness do you appreciate the most?

 A. In Genesis 1, it only took four verses before the works of God were declared good.

 B. Genesis 1:4 – “And God said, ‘Let there be light’, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.”

 C. All the acts of God are a reflection of His goodness.

 D. Throughout the account of creation, the passage methodically reiterates the goodness of God.

 1. The sea & land – good 1:9

 2. Plants – good 1:12

 3. Sun, moon, stars – good 1:18

 4. Fish, birds, beasts – good 1:22

 5. Humans – good

 6. “And God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.” (Gen 1:31)

How many of you like to find just that perfect gift to give at Christmas?

James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

 E. James 1:17 describes God as the good & perfect gift giver. Why? Because we deserve it? No. He gives good to us as a gift. Nobody ever got blessings from God on the grounds that we deserved it. All that we get and all that we are is only because God is good.

 F. We experience God’s goodness in a thousand everyday graces.

 1. Think about creation and the five senses. God created a world that is not just functional but beautiful.

 2. He grants us not only **sight** but the perception of color & depth & contrast. How enriched are our lives because we can see sunsets and snowcapped mountains, that we can look into the face of a loved one.

 3. He grants us not only the sense of **touch** but softness & coarseness, smoothness & roughness, warmth & cold. We get to enjoy bundling up in a nice warm blanket on a cold night.

 4. Our sense of **taste** knows a thousand flavors.

 It wouldn’t be nearly as much fun to eat if food had no taste.

 5. Our **hearing** a thousand tones, melodies, pitches & volumes.

 How much joy is brought into our lives through sounds? The sound of flowing water, the sound of the ocean, the sound of music.

 6. Our sense of smell a thousand fragrances, aromas & scents.

 7. God could have created a much duller creation & much duller creatures to fill it, but in His goodness, He formed it with all these things we enjoy.

 8. Even those who rebel against God can experience the goodness of God in a thousand circumstances. This is called God’s common grace.

 G. God gives us daily bread although we often complain instead of being content with what we possess.

 H. He gives us joy of family, of friends, though we often rage against the hard relationships in our lives.

 I. He grants us each new day that we often take for granted.

 J. But the greatest gift of all, God gave us His Son.

Luke 2:10-11 “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

 1. In Luke 2:10 when the angels came to the shepherds, they announced that they were bringing “good news”.

 2. It was the announcement of Jesus’ birth as Savior. (Luke 2:11)

 3. Nowhere is the goodness of God more clearly evidenced than in the sending of Jesus to mankind. Titus 3:4-5: “When the goodness & loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us.”

 4. Jesus came as One who radiated perfect goodness in perfect obedience to the Father for the sake of the lost.

 K. You might ask but what about when pain & suffering occurs in our lives? How can God be good then? (Your parents get divorced. A loved one dies of cancer. You are in an accident and get hurt.)

 1. Is it possible that we don’t understand how God is going to use it for good because we don’t have all the facts? (Gen. 50:20)

Rom 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

 2. Even when we don’t understand, the cross forever tells us that if pain & suffering happen to us, it is not because God doesn’t care. If God wasn’t good & didn’t care, He would never have allowed Jesus to die on the cross.

(I. Goodness is who God is

II. Goodness is what God does.)

III. Be good as He is good.

 A. How does God want us to respond to His goodness?

 B. Read Matthew 5:14-16.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

God wants us to do good so others will see it. We are to be a light causing others to glorify the Father of lights.

 C. What does it mean to be good as His children?

 1. Generosity – God has blessed us to be a blessing.

 a. God never intended for the good gifts He gives us to be just about us.

 b. He gives them to us so we can minister to others.

 c. Two ways we aren’t generous:

 (1). Coveting – denies the goodness of God implying we are lacking in God’s **present** provisions.

 (2). Hoarding – denies the goodness of God believing that we will lack in God’s good provision in the **future.**

 2. When we are in Christ, we see that we have the greatest treasure of all and can therefore freely give to others.

2 Cor. 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

 3. Those who know good awaits them in heaven can afford to be generous on earth.

 D. God wants us to be thankful and show gratitude for all God’s blessings in our lives.

 Psalm 107:1, 8-9

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures.Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”

IV. Be good for God’s sake

 A. God wants us to seek the welfare of others for His sake. (Titus 2:10)

 Rom 15:2-3

“Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. **3**For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”

 B. If we joyfully serve without expectations of thanks or recognition, we will draw attention to ourselves because it seems that often people do nice things to be noticed.

 C. But not everyone will be excited about your good deeds. It may be met with negative reactions. Have you ever experienced a negative response for doing good? Why do you think that is?

 1. People don’t want to feel in debt to anyone. This is pride. (Tell story of car wash)

 2. True goodness exposes the goodness-deficit of others. (Matt 5:10, 2 Tim 3:12)

 3. Consider the example of Christ. (Acts 10:38-39) He did good – they killed Him.

 D. But why do we seek to do good?

 1. There is no room among the children of God for any goodness aimed at securing favor with God or others.

 2. Only a goodness aimed at expressing our gratitude to a good God will do.

 3. We do good to reflect God’s goodness not to try to earn it.

 4. There is nothing we can do to be “good enough” for God to accept us. Once we know we are fully accepted by God, then we are free to do for others with a selfless motive.

 E. God wants us to be persistent to do good. Read Gal. 6:9.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

 1. The fight for goodness is one that will take time & effort.

 2. As we persevere and are faithful, we will yield fruit if we don’t quit.

 3. What relationship or circumstances in your life would benefit most from a renewed determination to be generous with your time, gifts or possessions?

Conclusion:

What is the will of God for your life?

-That you would be good even as He is good.

-That we would be a blessing to others even as we have been blessed.

-That we would walk in the light (goodness) as He is in the light.

Application:

1. Are you thankful for the goodness of God in your life? Take time to thank God daily for His acts of kindness.

2. Have you been harboring anger toward God for perceived indifference on God’s part? Why not confess that to God and trust that He’s at work even though you don’t understand right now.

3. God blessed you in His goodness for you to reflect Him and be a blessing. Who can you be a blessing to today with your time, talent or possibly money?

Small group questions

1. When you think about God, do you see Him as good? Why/why not?

2. What is one of the greatest ways God has been good to you?

3. Do you ever struggle with feeling like you need to do good to be accepted by God?

4. Do you find it hard to express goodness to others? In what ways do you try to express goodness to others?

5. What steps could you take to grow in showing goodness to others as an expression of your gratitude to God?