



God Most High

Life Group Study Notes

#2. The Goodness of God

Opening Up

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalms 107:1 (NIV)

Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! Psalms 31:19 (ESV)

Share with the group a life experience (yours or someone you know) in which the extraordinary goodness of God was displayed.

Drilling Down

1. Read each of the following quotes. What strikes you in each one and why?

“The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people.” -- A. W. Tozer. *The Knowledge of the Holy* (pp. 105-106).

“He is originally good, good of Himself, which nothing else is; for all creatures are good only by participation and communication from God. He is essentially good; not only good, but goodness itself: the creature’s good is a superadded quality, in God it is His essence. 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 (Thomas Manton).” -- A. W. Pink. *The Attributes of God*

“Because of God’s goodness to believers, our lives should exemplify that goodness to others. If we don’t do good to others, there is reason to wonder if we are letting our good God rule and reign in our lives. As John says (3 John 11), “Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.” And Paul reminds us in Gal 5:22 that the fruit of the Spirit is goodness. Even as God is good to all people, we must also be good.” -- Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him (Foundations of Evangelical Theology)* (p. 475).

2. All God’s ways are good because they are founded upon his perfect and most holy character. The implications of this truth are sweeping. His purpose and plan for our lives and his providential direction of them is worthy of our unqualified confidence and trust. We should never lean upon our own understanding nor seek to do that which is right in our own eyes. Rather we should look to God alone as the standard of all goodness. Read the following Scriptures and comment on what they teach about God’s goodness.

- Romans 12:2
- Genesis 50:20
- 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Psalm 25:8
- Psalm 23:6
- Psalm 27:13
- Psalm 34:8
- Psalm 107:8-9
- Psalm 145:5-7
- Lamentations 3:25
- Mark 10:18
- James 1:17
- Matthew 7:11
- Romans 8:28

3. How can we affirm God’s goodness yet recognize the reality of evil in the world? Atheists often argue against the existence of God because of the presence of evil in the world. What is the rationale behind this argument and why is it false?

Looking In

How does the knowledge of the goodness of God bring comfort and strength to you right now?

What would change in your attitude toward your circumstances if you saw them through the grid of God’s goodness?

Moving Out

In what areas of your life this week ought you to be expecting evidence of God’s goodness?

How can a knowledge of the essential goodness of God help you to encourage and strengthen others?

