

The Glorious Gospel God's Goodness Revealed in Creation

Genesis 1:4-16

Romans 2:1-4; Psalms 107:1-15



12 June 2022

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our goals
- What are we doing to pursue our goals?
 - Catechism Questions and Meditation
 - Scripture Memorization and Meditation

What have we learned in the previous weeks?

- Attributes of God Genesis 1:1
- Creation exists for the praise and glory of God Psalms 19

God's goodness in Creation

- The whole counsel of God defines God's goodness in two ways.
 - His character
 - His actions
- Summed up in the Bible "God is good and He does good" - Psalms 119:68
- Creation reveals God-His nature, His character, and His goodness.
- Creation is good in that, creation is reflective of the actions and attributes of God Romans 1:20.
- Creation is the beginning of the unfolding God's eternal purpose, which was established before the foundation of the earth with Christ Jesus as the centre Ephesians 3:1-6

Days of creation Genesis 1:3 - Genesis 1:31

- Seven times in Genesis 1 God surveys His creation and calls it good.
- "...Then God saw the light that it was good" Genesis 1:3-4
- "...And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good" Genesis 1:5-10
- "...And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:11-12

- "...God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:13-18
- "...So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" Genesis 1:19-21
- "...And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:22-25
- "...Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good..." Genesis 1:26-31

God is the standard of good

- Creation is good because it affirms its original design and intent was to reflect and display God's character, power, and nature Psalms 19
- Not only is God's goodness seen in creation but also He is continually good. He is the Eternal Sustainer of all creation Acts 17:25, Hebrews 1:3
- God is good and His actions are therefore good, God is the only standard of good - Psalms 18:30
- None is good but only God Mark 10:18
- Throughout the ages, and specifically today, it has been a great test of faith to believe that God is good. Habakkuk 1:2-4
- Objections to the goodness of God:
 - If God is good then why is there suffering and pain? John 16:33
 - Why does God withhold His goodness? Jeremiah 5:25, Romans 9:18.
 - Why is He severely disciplining His people? Hebrews 12:6
- The good news is that OUR GOD REIGNS - Isaiah 52:7
- The fact that God is good means:-
 - He has no evil in Him Psalms 5:4, 1 John 1:5
 - His intentions and motivations are always good - Jeremiah 29:1
 - He always does what is right Deuteronomy 32:4
- God does not ask us to understand everything. But He promises us peace if we will believe and trust in Him Isaiah 55:9, Isaiah 26:3
- God's desire is for us to know Him through what He has revealed to us - Deuteronomy 29:29
- By worldly standards, the wicked plan of Joseph's brothers was in itself a saving plan for Israel. The evil meted out to Joseph was eventually meant for good Genesis 50:20
- Likewise, the mocking, insults, spitting, scourging and killing of Jesus altered the course of the elect from eternal condemnation Luke 18:31-33
- All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28. These are the ones who know God and keep His commandments John 14:21

- But what should distinguish the suffering of believers and unbelievers is the confidence that our suffering is under the control of an all-powerful and loving God; our suffering has meaning and purpose in God's eternal plan 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Romans 8:18

God's goodness as seen in His word and providence

- The Lord is good to us - "The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made." Psalm 145:9
- "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." 1 Chronicles 16:34
- "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." Psalm 34:8
- "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights James 1:17
- "The goodness of God endures continually". Psalm 52:1
- Man should Rest in His infinite goodness because God's goodness will carry us through - John 16:33; Romans 5:3-5
- God's goodness is showcased in the Law He gave to Israel; the Law is holy, righteous, and good Romans 7:12
- He is ready to forgive Psalm 86:5
- "For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations". He is faithful Psalm 100:5.

God reveals His goodness through His Son Jesus Christ Romans 5:1-3

- Through Christ Jesus:-
 - We gain peace with God
 - We gain access to grace
 - We have access by faith
 - We rejoice in hope of the glory of God
 - We glory in tribulations. He upholds us through difficult times Isaiah 41:10
- We gain the gift of the Holy Spirit which guides us in becoming more like Jesus Galatians 5:22-25
- God is loving. But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us Romans 5:8

Repent unto good works

- In repentance sin is the thing to be repented of, and sin is a transgression of the Law, sin is lawlessness 1 John 3:4
- In fact, sin separates us from God's goodness, God requires deep and sincere repentance before He pardons any sinner, therefore repent. Jeremiah 5:25

- Thus, true repentance issues from a realization in the heart, brought by the Holy Spirit, of the sinfulness of sin, of the awfulness of ignoring the claims of God and defying His authority Psalms 51
- God revealed Himself to Job, that led to his repentance Job 42:1-6
- His goodness should lead us to repentance Romans 2:4, 1:20
- God's goodness is given to us according to grace, not according to merit Romans 6:14

Today if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts Hebrews 4:7 but examine yourself

Therefore,

- Give thanks in everything because God is good and His love endures forever 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Colossians 3:17
- Submit to Christ as Lord, He is the Creator and Sustainer - Romans 10:9-10; Psalm 2:10-12
- Love God with all your heart, soul and strength, for He is good in character and deeds - Acts 8:37; John 3:18, 36
- Clothe yourselves with humility and rest in His goodness Proverbs 3:5-7, James 4:6
- Seek God by knowing Him in truth and spirit by seeing His goodness not only in creation but also throughout His word - 2 Chronicles 26:5, Ephesians 2:8-10; Acts 26:19-20; Titus 2:14; James 2:14-26

Where We are Going in 2022

- Unpacking this good news from God that began in eternity past, unfolded beginning with Creation, was worked out through all of history, climaxed with the incarnation, life, death on a cross, the resurrection of the Son of God, and takes us into eternity future to the new heavens and new earth.
- Next week Bob - The Mystery of Adam, Christ, Eve, and the Church