

## **The Goodness of God**

Carrie Smith January 19/20, 2026

### Scripture declares outright that God is good

Psalm 25:8  
Psalm 34:8  
Psalm 52:9  
Psalm 86:5  
Psalm 100:5  
Nahum 1:7,8

### The perfection of God's goodness

“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.” Thomas Manton

Psalm 119:68 “You are good and do good; teach me Your statutes.”

### God first displays His goodness in creation

Genesis 1:31

### God shows His goodness by caring for His creation

Psalm 145: 9,15,16  
Matthew 5:43

### God's decrees and purposes are good

Isaiah 46:10

### God's providence is good

Joseph: Genesis 37:28b; 50:19,20  
Judas  
Psalm 31:19

### God gives good

Romans 5:8; 10:9,10  
God's goodness in Christ: Ephesians 2:4-7  
God's goodness in our maturing: Phil 1:6; Colossians 1:9-12

Proper responses (from the book *None Else*, Beeke and Cosby

Have absolute confidence that God is good

Psalm 34:8

Ground your confidence in God's goodness upon Christ

*"...even when God's providence hurts you deeply, see in Christ's hands and His side the marks of His love."*

Love God for His goodness

Zechariah 9:17

Desire God as your supreme good

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Worship God for His goodness

Moses: Exodus 33:18,19; 34:6-8

Understanding God's goodness through eyes of faith

God predetermines all events: Ephesians 1:11

The Fall resulted in physical difficulties and catastrophes.

Sin, the curse of sin on all creation: Romans 8:22

God predetermines sin but makes man accountable for his sin. Acts 2:23

God hardens sinners in sin. Romans 9:18

God never tempts people to sin. (He does try, test, purify, and refine.)

James 1:13; Deuteronomy 8:16

God is never blamed for sin or portrayed as enjoying the sin He permits.

Ezekiel 33:11

James 1:14,15 Man sins freely and is culpable

God is glorified in causing calamities and in judging sin.

Isaiah 45:6,7; Romans 11:36

God has graciously provided salvation from sin!

Cling to what is good! God alone IS good. Romans 9:12

(Tozer) "The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but His goodness encourages us not to be afraid of Him. To fear and not be afraid – that is the paradox of faith."

## Discussion Questions

1. Many exiles returned to Jerusalem with Nehemiah and reconstructed the wall around the city and then also restored the temple. After Ezra read from the law, the Levites got up and gave a long history of God's provision for Israel. Read Nehemiah 9:25 and note some of the good things God provided for them.

Pink says, "Gratitude is the return justly required from the objects of His beneficence; yet it is often withheld from our great Benefactor simple because His goodness is so constant toward us in the common course of events. It is not felt because we daily experience it."

List some "every day" goodness's we enjoy from God's hand that we can acknowledge in praise.

2. Read James 1:17

The John MacArthur study Bible comments that "everything related to divine giving is adequate, complete, and beneficial."

Sometimes we regard the circumstances that God provides as inadequate, incomplete, and not at all beneficial. Sometimes the circumstances are truly "bad."

Name an attribute(s) of God and describe how it transforms your perspective to one that honors and praises God in the midst of adverse circumstances.