

Introduction:

- Important concepts from last Sunday:
 - "The definition we give to glory will determine where we encounter it." Paul Manwaring; What on Earth Is Glory.
 - In its simplest definition: Glory is God expressing himself.
 - God's revelation of His goodness to Moses was His response to Moses's "Show me your glory." Show me proof you are with me and us.
 - God's goodness bridged the gap between Israel's disobedience/rebellion and God's covenant with them. This is the Gospel!!! God doing what we do not deserve.
 - **** Our faith will only explore areas where we believe God is good.**** Bill Johnson
 - How is the goodness of God and anchor for our souls? That is what I want to attempt to answer this morning. Heb 6:19 Jesus is our anchor beyond the curtain.
- "God is absolutely incapable of becoming more good or less good. To refer to God's goodness is simply to refer to God himself. As self-sufficient, God does not derive his goodness from anything else. Thus, he rests in himself as good." Lexham Survey of Theology. I Am that I Am is His name.
- *"You are good and do good; teach me your statutes."* (Psalm 119:68, ESV) Holy Spirit teach us today.

I. What Do I Believe About God's Goodness What I believe about God shapes my perception of God.

- A. Misperceptions of God's goodness give me a wrong understanding of who He is and how the Kingdom of God operates. Some common misperceptions:
 1. Many people think of God's goodness as Him being useful to us.
 - a) IE. "That is a good car." When I say that, I mean it is useful, reliable.
 - b) IE. If I say, "That is a good hamburger." It infers that I have eaten lots of hamburgers and this is one of the better ones I have eaten before or in comparison with. God is not useful to me nor is He one of the better gods out there.
 2. Another misperception: Many people think that God's goodness as a benefit for eliminating all 'bad' from our lives. The goodness of God does not mean nothing bad can happen to me. God is good whether I am in difficulties or victories.
 3. Many people think like immature children when they look at the goodness of God:
 - a) IE. To a child a parent who does not give them what they want is not good.
 - b) IE. To a child a parent who disciplines them is not good.
 4. If we see God as anything other than good we will create a theology or perception that brings God down to our experience; rather than a belief that brings us up God's level of understanding through His Word.
 - a) When some Christians find themselves in a place of uncertainty with no answer

for their problem, **they change their view of God** and ascribe to Him character traits that are totally anti-biblical.

- b) They might convince themselves that He won't help them out of a financial hole because He isn't intervening in their affairs, though the Bible says, "*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 4:19).

B. The Goodness of God, A Good Theology (Study of God). The goodness of God holds within it all the attributes of God you can think of: Thus God shows Moses His goodness.

1. Mercy - God shows mercy to many but His goodness is extended to all.
2. Patience - God shows patience to those in rebellion that is an expression of His goodness.
3. Love - Many people experience the love of God but He demonstrated His love towards all by sending His Son...That is God's goodness.
4. Grace - His goodness to those who are guilty we refer to as grace. Kevin DeYoung; sermon.
5. This list can go on and on. The goodness of God appears to be the sum total of all of God's attributes.

C. I love this quote by Bill Johnson: *"The cornerstone of all theology is the goodness of God."*

1. David and the goodness of God. David speaks of the goodness of God more than any person in scripture. Take this one: "*You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.*" (Psalm 119:68, ESV) Two things he declares of God in vs 68:
 - a) First, You are good. It's who you are! When I look at you, all I can see is your goodness. Goodness flows out of you like light. Your goodness captivates me!...amazes me!...enlightens me! To reject this goodness, this light is to dwell in darkness. Romans 1.
 - b) Second, And you do good. Because goodness defines Him, it is only natural that all He does is good. Genesis 1. "*It was good!*"
2. David Psalm 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...*
3. God's goodness is who He is. The definition of goodness can come from who He is. Nothing externally to God can define His goodness; it can only attempt to describe it. This is why He who comes from the Father is full of grace and truth. John 1:1-17
 - a) All things created through Him...it was good.
 - b) "*Moses gave us the Law, but Jesus, the Anointed One, unveils truth wrapped in tender mercy. No one has ever gazed upon the fullness of God's splendor except the uniquely beloved Son, who is cherished by the Father and held close to his heart. Now he has unfolded to us the full explanation of who God truly is!*" (John 1:17-18, TPT)

II. The Goodness of God and Jesus

- A. Moses said, *"Show me your glory!"* Ex. 33:18 Show me your expression of proof that you will go with me, and Israel into the promised land.
1. God answered by declaring His name, (I AM!) and showing Moses His goodness.
 2. The Lord hears Moses' request. He will not leave them, nor forsake them. He will go with them to the Promised Land. This is the Gospel (good news). Immanuel, God with us. And not just any God, the never-failing, never-changing, all-surpassing God of goodness is He who is with us!
 3. What Moses had in the law or the Mosaic Covenant was nothing compared to what we have in Christ.
 4. *"The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it."* (Luke 16:16, ESV)
- B. God shows us His glory! His greatest expression to date! His Son! Proof that God is with us!
1. *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we have seen his glory**, (the expression of the Father in the Son) **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**"* (John 1:14, ESV) The devil is trying to hide this glory/ expression from the world: *"In their case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**"* (2 Corinthians 4:4, ESV) Blinds comes by lack of faith!/Unbelief!
 2. What did Moses see? He saw the goodness of God pass by! As God proclaimed His own name—I Am That I Am! But what did the Trinity do together? Revealed God's goodness!
 3. What did Jesus reveal that Moses could not? Jesus revealed the Father! Jesus is the expression the Father!
 - a) *"Throughout our history God has spoken to our ancestors by his prophets in many different ways. **The revelation he gave them was only a fragment at a time, building one truth upon another. But to us living in these last days, God now speaks to us openly in the language of a Son, the appointed Heir of everything, for through him God created the panorama of all things and all time. The Son is the dazzling radiance of God's splendor, the exact expression of God's true nature—his mirror image!**"* (Hebrews 1:1-3, TPT) The exact expression of God's true nature.
 - b) It was Jesus himself who said, *"If you have seen me you have seen the Father."* Jn 14:9 ESV I think it was Bill Johnson who said, *"God sent the Son to reveal the Father to a world of orphans!"*

- c) "All revelation comes as an invitation to encounter God in that area." (the area revealed by His word) Bill Johnson "*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*" Ps 34:8
- (1) Taste is experience
 - (2) See is perception.
 - (3) It is through experiencing God that we perceive God.
4. Worth repeating: "The cornerstone of all theology is the goodness of God." Bill Johnson. Everything comes from the goodness of God! When you look at the life of Jesus you see the goodness of God being expressed!
- C. And Luke said the announcing of the Kingdom of God causes everyone to force his way into it! This was John the Baptist's message!
- 1. "goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4 ESV)
 - 2. God's goodness leads us into the place of repentance. IE. This message caused all Israel to gather to John the Baptist rather than the Pharisees.
 - 3. The goodness of God will cause an end time harvest to gain exceeding momentum.
 - a) Messianic passage Hosea 3:5 "*they shall come in fear to the Lord and to His goodness in their latter days.*" ESV
 - b) Psalm 67 speaks of the nations coming to Him because of His goodness.
 - 4. **** Our faith will only explore areas where we believe God is good. **** Bill Johnson
 - a) He saves
 - b) He heals
 - c) He delivers
 - d) He prospers
 - e) He comforts
 - f) He directs
 - g) Etc, etc, etc.

Conclusion:

- The goodness of God is a foundational truth every Christian should embrace.
- God's goodness opens up to us eternal options in this life.
- God's keeps me anchored when I have questions in this life. My 'why?'s do not misdirect me away from God but His goodness keeps me coming to Him.
- Do you know who talks about the Goodness of God the most in life? Older people.
- Ps 73, the first and last verses talk of the goodness of God.
 - God is good!
 - I almost slipped
 - It was good to draw near to God...he returned to an eternal perspective of God.