

# GOD IS GOOD

Part 2 of Knowing God. Selected Passages.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 4, 2024.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE KNOWING GOD SERIES

### Relatable.

- I compare my relationship with God to a never-ending conversation.
- God is good. That's his essence/nature.

Psalm 23:6 (CSB) Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life ...

- Goodness - God - pursues us aggressively to do good to us.

## BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GOD'S GOODNESS

### 1. The goodness of God revealed in creation.

- God blessed the first man and woman.

Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them.

- A blessing is something good from God - a revelation of himself.

Genesis 1:28b-29 (ESV) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

- The blessing of propagation - be fruitful and multiply.
- The blessing of purpose - fill the earth, subdue it, have dominion
- The blessing of provision - I have given you ... for food.

## **2. The goodness of God revealed in his covenant.**

- Goodness rained down on the people of Israel.
- God made covenants and protected, provided, and pursued.
- When he renewed his covenant with Moses, God showed his glory by revealing his goodness - they are the same:

Exodus 33:18-19 (ESV) Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.'

Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV) The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty,

- God's goodness rains down on his people as mercy, grace, patience, love, faithfulness, forgiveness, and justice.
- God is always good to us; he cannot be anything else.

## **3. The goodness of God revealed in Christ and the cross.**

- Christ and the cross are the ultimate revelation of God. His goodness was on full display.

Romans 8:31-32 (ESV) If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- Verse 31. God is working for our good. He is for us.
- Verse 32a. The ultimate revelation of God's goodness. He gave his Son for us.
- Verse 32b. Goodness revealed in Christ and the cross continues. He graciously gives us all things.

# RESTING IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD

## Difficult to believe?

- We may have created a false picture of God as harsh, unloving, forgiving, or stingy.
- That's a problem because that is an inaccurate picture of the true God.
- Three spiritual practices to discover the true God who is good.
  - Read, memorize, meditate on, and speak aloud daily Psalm 23.
  - Pray for grace to replace false ideas about God with the truth.
  - Give thanks daily to God for his goodness.

## Rest in the goodness of God.

- He does not change. He was good yesterday, he is good today.
- Rest, knowing that God is pursuing you with his goodness.

# SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

## READING

- This week, read Chapter 4 of Ingram **OR** Chapters 16 of Packer **OR** pages 54-57 of Wilson.

## GET STARTED

- One thing I'm doing to have fun is ...

## DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to the goodness of God?
- Discuss any beliefs, people, experiences, etc., that have made it difficult for you to believe in God's goodness.
- Explain how the Incarnation of God in Christ and his sacrificial death on the cross are the ultimate expression of God's goodness.
- Read Psalm 84:11 and Romans 8:31-32. How do these verses capture your experiences of God's goodness? Share with the group how you rest in his goodness even when times are bad.
- How has an attitude of gratitude been a way to respond to God's goodness in your life? Share practical ways you show gratitude to God.

## PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray to know God better.
- Pray for the Cornerstone.
- Pray for the members of your small group