



MONDAY 18 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 100 & Philippians 1:3-6

Plug In...

This week we consider another characteristic of God, that He is good. Think about how we use the term 'good': "he's a good footballer", "it's a good car", "it was a good day", "that's a good girl". Good can be used to refer to skill, value, happiness, usefulness, even moral evaluation. All this shows us we could run into trouble if we start with our categories of 'good' to say what we mean by God is good. No wonder many people have trouble conceiving God as good. Let's start with what God says is the criteria for 'goodness'.

Chew It Over...

How do these Bible writers (in today's passages) come to the conclusion that God is good?

Prayer Suggestion

Acknowledge to God that He is good, especially as you have experienced being the object of His goodness in Christ.



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TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Exodus 33:12-23 & 34:5-7

Plug In...

As humans we can choose between doing 'good' or 'evil'. Sometimes we think God faces the same choice, but reason that being God He will choose the good. This way of thinking makes 'good' an abstract concept. It conceives of 'good' being an entity outside of God, one higher than God which He must be subject to if He is to be called a good God.

In Exodus 33-34 we see that 'goodness' is not abstracted from God as something He must attain to, rather goodness is personal. It belongs to God's nature; who He is as He reveals Himself personally by name (33:19). It is the LORD *as* His good-self that passes by Moses. As the LORD reveals Himself as a person He reveals that He is intrinsically good as a person.

Chew It Over...

If the proclaiming of His name is the LORD's goodness passing by Moses, what descriptions unpack the goodness of God?

Prayer Suggestion

Psalm 145 begins a prayer to God based on His goodness; based on His name. Pray this today to our God.



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WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 86

Plug In...

God in all His goodness passed by Moses explaining who He is. In that explanation we see that God's goodness is made up of mercy and compassion. David is vividly aware that God's goodness is particularly seen in His mercy in forgiving sins (v.5).

Chew It Over...

What things are listed in the psalm that would be the product of God's goodness to Him? [There are over ten things that David will go on to experience.]

Prayer Suggestion

Again, our prayer could not be worded better than the psalm itself.



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THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Titus 3:1-10

Plug In...

As we've seen, God has explained Himself as good through the expounding of His name in Exodus 34. After this description, the Bible focuses in on God's goodness via His love – particularly as it is seen in the Cross. God becoming man and taking humiliation upon the cross is His love for us. This shows that God will go to the greatest degree to do good!

Chew It Over...

While we can't go to the degree that God did to do good, how does His action nevertheless define what it means to do good works (v.8)?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord to enable you to be devoted to goodness. That our ethics will be modelled on what God did with Jesus through the cross.



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FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Acts 14:8-18; 17:22-34

Plug In...

People throughout history have experienced a world with so many disasters, diseases, and constant death. Paganism emerges as people try to contact the gods they believed to be in control of the chaos and do all sorts of things aimed at persuading the gods to stop the chaos for a season. Several times Paul gave speeches to these pagans pointing out that all the sunshine, rain, and relative prosperity they had comes from God. It comes from God because He is the good Lord of heaven and earth.

Chew It Over...

You could imagine someone responding to Paul with, "then why all the chaos?" Today, someone might ask "then why all the recent earthquakes in Japan?" What motivations did Paul say God has in sending the rain and sunshine in a world that continues to ebb and flow with disasters and difficulties?

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God that He has prolonged our life long enough to hear the gospel and find Jesus. Ask God to sustain the world, give good rain and sunshine upon our friends and families so they too find Jesus before long.



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WEEKEND 23-24 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Romans 8:18-39

Plug In...

Paul, in this passage, empathises with our reality that life is not smooth. Paul encourages us that because God is a good God He has the widest view on everything and how it all connects.

Chew It Over...

Reflect on your focuses lately. Do you need to re-know that God is good and that strangely and remarkably this is for your good?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord in the midst of your troubles to help you behave and think in a way that reveals and displays you know Him as good.