

**CONSIDER THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD
EXODUS 33: 12-23**

FCF: Since the garden of Eden man has lived with a doubt in his mind about the goodness of the Lord.

Proposition: The goodness of the Lord that we enjoy day by day should lead us to turn to Him in repentance.

Objective: To lead persons to turn to the Lord in repentance.

Introduction:

Man's nagging doubt about the goodness of God started in the Garden of Eden. The thought was planted in the human heart by the Tempter in his conversation with Eve. He implied to the woman that if God were good He would not withhold anything from the man and woman—including the tree in the midst of the garden. He failed to mention that it was for the good of the man and woman that God put the tree off-limits. The good Creator wanted to spare them the pain that would come with knowing experientially good and evil.

I came across an expression a few days ago in my study that helps me understand this. It is found in an old prayer from Saint Patrick, the famous missionary to Scotland. He used the expression: "the knowledge that defiles." Sure the man and woman knew something that would

never have known if they had not eaten the forbidden fruit, but it was a knowledge that defiled.

The Adversary has kept this doubt alive since the garden. He is constantly pointing to some incident of life that is painful, and inferring that God caused it, so He must not to be a good God.

Yet the witness of the Scriptures is with one voice—God is good! The God and Father of our Lord Jesus is good. Those of us who know Him have tasted of His goodness.

I. HIS GOODNESS DEFINES HIS CHARACTER.

- 1. A bold request.**
- 2. A gracious answer.**

God's goodness is His glory.

Jesus was full of His glory so He went about doing good.

II. HIS GOODNESS EXPLAINS OUR PLEASURES.

“How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.” (Psalm 31:19)

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

1. He is the Source of all our physical pleasures.

He gave to our body the capacity for the pleasures, and then as a faithful Creator, He provides what is needed to give the pleasure. Jesus taught that the Father sends His rain upon the just and the unjust, on the good and the bad. (Matthew 5:45)

Food

Shelter

Clothing

Family

Love

Work

Health

Beauty

Sunshine

Rain

Mountains

Oceans

2. He is the Source of all our spiritual pleasures.

Goodness can be translated gladness and joy. The inner fulfillment that comes from knowing God comes from God. It is a gift of His mercy not

a reward for our achievement. **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who had blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 1:3)**

III. HIS GOODNESS MAGNIFIES OUR SIN.

1. Nehemiah’s Confession—our sin is in spite of the goodness of the Lord.

“Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways.” (Nehemiah 9:35)

2. Isaiah’s Charge—our sin deserves greater judgment because of His goodness.

“I will tell of the kindness of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses.—

“Yet they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and He himself fought against them.” (Isaiah 63:7, 10)

IV. HIS GOODNESS ENCOURAGES OUR REPENTANCE.

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4)

- 1. His goodness encourages us to trust Him.**
- 2. His goodness encourages us to serve Him.**