

GOODNESS

In response to questions concerning the character of God, people often say to me, "Pastor, if God is good, why do so many bad things happen to me?" My answer... "Try not to judge God's character by your routine encounters with adverse circumstances. His goodness stands with rock-like dependability amidst the shifting fortunes of life." We must constantly remind ourselves that despite the many negative things that confront us – which often make no sense at all - God is good! Yes, God is intrinsically good. Goodness is part of His divine nature; therefore, He is incapable of doing anything but good. This is why the Bible says His goodness will follow us faithfully all the days of our lives (Psalm 23:6). Implying that, wherever we go and whatever we do, God's goodness is in hot pursuit. From the moment we awake to the time we go to bed, God's goodness is chasing us down. It never quits or backs off! It has one purpose, and that is, to overtake us and fill our lives with blessings.

Throughout the Bible, God's unfaltering goodness, from creation to salvation (and beyond), is on triumphant display. Our heavenly Father wants everyone to know how much He loves us! His benevolence and loving kindness toward us is limitless - it has no boundaries or restrictions. It is impossible to grasp the true significance of God's goodness without first comprehending His amazing and all-powerful love. We cannot separate the goodness of God from the love of God. The love of God greets us each morning, sustains us through the day, and watches over us at night. Nothing we do, or don't do, will enlarge or diminish God's love. Likewise, nothing can alter the good that God extends toward us. God is so good that He has arranged immeasurable ways to express His goodness. He has promised to work all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). Notice, God acknowledges that not everything is good in the immediate sense. But He promises to providentially weave every adverse or negative circumstance into His 'good' plan for our lives.

If you are experiencing pain or sorrow or disappointment, I would like to encourage you by declaring that God's goodness cannot be foiled by the most distressing events. I guarantee you that even now God is relentlessly and effectively fusing all the tragic episodes of your life for ultimate good. Therefore, nothing is futile and nothing is hopeless. When God thinks of you He has a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). For that reason you need to understand that God is at work in a proactive and not a reactive fashion. He is not merely responding to make the best of a bad situation. He is conforming everything to His perfect will so that He may bless you abundantly - in spite of your circumstances! Remember this, **God's goodness is your life jacket during the storms of life**. There is no other way to make sense of it! God will not only see you through, He will undeniably use every situation for your good. This is His goodness chasing you down. So stop pursuing what is actually trying to catch you and allow His blessings to overtake you (Deuteronomy 28:2).