

Thinking About God...

Many people have many different ideas about whether God exists, who He may be, and what He may be like. The Bible does not set out to “prove” the existence of God. It simply assumes that God does exist and is the supreme creator of all that exists. The Bible states that God is the pre-existent uncaused-cause of creation (Genesis 1:1ff). He is knowable and yet incomprehensible (Job 11:7-12; 36:26; Isaiah 40:18).

In Creation, in Jesus Christ, and in the Bible God reveals to us His nature (how God acts) and essence (who God is). The revelation of God’s nature and essence are called His attributes. Some of these attributes go beyond our ability as humans to understand (i.e. the attribute of “eternity” - that God is free from the limitations of time and exists in one indivisible present) Just thinking about these attributes causes our minds to spin. However, some of the attributes of God do have a correlation to our experiences as humankind. These are called God’s “communicable attributes”.

One such communicable attribute is **THE GOODNESS OF GOD**.

By goodness we mean that God graciously and kindly provides for His creation. (Psalm 145:9,15; Acts 14:17) While someone may occasionally do “good” by visiting the sick or feeding the homeless, God is good. His very nature is absolute good. There is nothing about God that is not good. The goodness of God is present at all times in the exercise of every one of God’s attributes. God’s wrath is good. His holiness is good. He withholds nothing good from us. He is always acting in goodness towards His creation.

Practically speaking, God never allows anything to happen to His people which is not good (Romans 8:28). While intellectually we may doubt that everything that happens to us is good we must be careful not to blame God. Whatever comes into the life of a Christian is a part of God’s purposes to bring about our good and His glory. For example, Joseph’s brothers intended evil, but God intended and brought about good (Genesis 50:20). The “thorn” in Paul’s flesh, which he suffered greatly from, was brought about by a messenger of Satan. But God used even this to demonstrate His sufficiency in Paul’s life (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Because God is good there is always purpose and good in what happens in the lives of God’s people.

No where in all of human experience is the goodness of God more evident than in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Humankind, completely separated from God, is destined for an eternity of punishment and torment without God (Romans 1:18-3:23). We were hopelessly in the clutches of Satan. But God in His goodness has made it possible for us to be restored to a right relationship with God, have our sins forgiven, and to spend eternity in God’s presence. All of which is not based on any “good works” that we might do but on the basis of the goodness of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:19-26; 5:6-8; Titus 3:4-7) expressed by His death and resurrection on our behalf.

Knowing the goodness of God should change our perspective of life. In the midst of the hard stuff of life and unanswered questions we need to be reminded that God is good and to grow in our trust and obedience. In the midst the darkest times of our lives and in the midst of great blessing we need to remember to give thanks and praise to God.
