

Goodness Part One: Righteousness in Action

4/5/2020

I. Def. of Goodness: Righteousness in action. Choosing and following moral good.

It involves doing what is right and is a summation of His nature and character.

II. What does this virtue of Goodness look like?

*“The Lord replied, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show **mercy** to anyone I choose, and I will show **compassion** to anyone I choose.’” Ex 33: 19 “Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, ‘The Lord, the Lord, the **compassionate** and **gracious** God, **slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness**... Ex 34: 5- 6*

1) Mercy: Patience in action. Kindness and grace to those who do not deserve it.”

Choosing not to bring justice-- Genesis 3:21

2) Compassion: Sympathy with action. To empathize with someone who is suffering, and to feel compelled to reduce the suffering. 1 John 3:18; Good Samaritan

3) Gracious: Favor, forgiveness and kindness in action. Isaiah 30:18; Eph 1:7

4) Longsuffering: Patiently enduring a lasting offense or hardship Rom 2:4

5) Love: Unconditional/sacrificial concern/loyalty for the well-being of others.

6) Faithfulness: To be reliable, steadfast and unwavering-- keeping promises

*“But as for me, the **nearness of God is my good**; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy works.” Psalm 73:28*

III. How to have an effective and consistent prayer life: Matthew 6:9-13

1) Find a quiet and consistent place to pray. Jesus went to the mountain/garden.

2) Read God’s Word/One Year Bible. Pray the scriptures, A.C.T.S., Lord’s Prayer...

3) Keep a journal— write what the Lord is speaking to you; write out your prayers

4) Find a prayer partner and pray together one hour a week—Jesus did. Mt 26:36

5) Remember: You are never closer to Jesus than when you pray. Read John 17

IV. God is not only good, but also sovereign—He has and will remove evil in His way and in His time. God will **redeem whatever He **allows**. Trust Him. Rom 8:28**

Homework:

1. Why is it hard for you to regularly persist in your resistance to evil? Be specific.
2. What can you do to make it easier for yourself to choose and follow moral good?
3. How would you summarize God’s goodness in your own words? Be creative!
4. How is your prayer life? What can you do to help make it better? See above.
5. How does God’s goodness influence your understanding of God’s Sovereignty?

Goodness Part Two: God’s Faithfulness

4/19/2020

6) Faithfulness: To be reliable, steadfast and unwavering-- keeping promises “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called **Faithful** and **True**. With justice he judges and wages war.” Rev 19:11

God’s faithfulness seen through His eight promises:

- 1) Edenic—**Rule**—Gen 2:15—Cultivate it and keep it.
*“God said, “Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let **them rule** the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures.” So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and **bring it under your control. Rule over** the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth. I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain **for you to eat.**” Gen 1:26-29; 2:18*
- 2) Adamic—**Redemption** Christ will overcome and destroy the Evil one. Jesus who knew no sin became sin on our behalf... Rom 5:8
- 3) Noahic—**Restraint**—
- 4) Abrahamic—**Restore ...** *“And in you **all the families** of the earth shall **be blessed.**” Gen 12:3 “The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. **May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**” Ps 67:7*
- 5) Mosaic—**Reveal** –
- 6) Palestinian—**Return**--
- 7) Davidic—**Reveal**--
- 8) New--- **Regenerate**— *“This is the **covenant** I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will **put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Jer 31:32-34*

Homework:

1. How has God blessed you? How can you more intentionally use your gifts?
2. How does it make you feel that Jesus became sin on your behalf? Thank him.
3. It’s easy to fall right back into sin after being forgiven. Why do you think this is?
4. **What promises to God have you made, but haven’t kept? Be specific.**
5. Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Follow Rom 10:9.
6. Memorize the six virtues and definitions of “Goodness” from part one.
7. How did God’s truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
8. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?