

THE GOODNESS & SEVERITY OF GOD (Romans 11:22) Bill Turner

1. Abraham Lincoln was a remarkably compassionate man...

- a. When Lincoln visited an army hospital there lay a young Northern officer so badly wounded that it was obvious that he was going to die. The nurses whispered, "Mr. President, he can't make it." And the great big, tall, homely president went into the hospital ward and walked among the men. And then he went over to this dying young officer and leaned down, kissed his forehead and said, "Lieutenant, you've got to get well for me." And the nurses around said they heard a whispered word, "Mr. President, I'll do it." and he did!
- b. Another time he was in the White House office where he sat gazing out the window. An aide said, "Mr. President, you seem very serious today." "Yes," he said, "today is 'butcher day.' They're going to shoot a lot of boys today in the army for retreating under fire or doing something else in wartime. I don't blame those boys; they weren't cowards. Their legs did it." (AW Tozer, Attributes of God p.53)
- c. Along with tears he said, "I'm going over the list, and I'm going to save every one that I can."

2. Lincoln had a genuinely good heart—but he was no push over either.

- a. His decision as president led to the bloody fighting of a civil war, in which more Americans were killed than in all the other American wars combined.
- b. Within one man—both Goodness and Severity

3. Paul calls us to behold the Goodness & Severity of God... (Romans 11:22)

Not only His Goodness alone—or Just His Severity alone...

- a. Both are infinite and perfect moral attributes of God
- b. Both reveal the love and holiness of God
- c. Both were shown at the Cross where Jesus died to pay our Debt in Full

I. THE GOODNESS OF GOD

A. DEFINED

1. **Goodness:** (Oxford American Dictionary)
 - a) the quality of being morally good or virtuous
 - b) "motivated by kindness and generosity rather than the hope of personal gain"
2. **Greek:** (chrēstós χρηστότης) moral excellence, integrity, kindness, benevolence
3. **Jesus used this word, where it is translated "kindness" (Luke 6:35–36)**
 - a) God is kind and merciful EVEN to the ungrateful and wicked!
 - b) And He is especially Kind and Merciful to His children!

B. DESCRIBED

1. **Moses asked to see God's glory—Notice What God did (Exodus 33:18–20)**
 - a) God allowed His goodness to pass by Moses
 - b) But He had to protect Moses because no one can see God and live!
2. **Imagine God's goodness is so perfect and powerful we are not safe!**
 - a) God is Infinitely perfect in goodness and holiness—We are not!
 - b) God's holy perfection is so powerful that no human can see God and live!

3. We find a biblical definition in (Exodus 34:5–8 esp. v.6)

- a) the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty...

C. DISPLAYED

1. IN HIS GIFTS: All good gifts are from God! (James 1:17)
2. IN HIS GENEROSITY TO ALL (Psalm 145:9)
3. BOTH THE WICKED AND GOOD (Matthew 5:44–45)
4. IN HIS ANSWERS TO PRAYER (Matthew 7:9–11)
5. IN HIS CREATION (Psalm 145:15–16)
6. IN HIS PLANS (Gen 50:20)
7. IN HIS PURPOSES: God works things for good! (Romans 8:28)
8. IN HIS GENEROUS ABUNDANCE (Ps. 65:9–13)
9. IN HIS GIFT OF HAPPINESS (Acts 14:17)
10. IN HIS GIFT OF LIFE (Acts 17:23)
11. IN HIS GIFT OF FREE WILL, LOVE, MEANING and PURPOSE
12. IN HIS GIFT OF MARRIAGE and FAMILY and COMPANIONSHIP
13. IN HIS GIFT OF GRACE Sending Jesus to Die for our sins!
14. IN HIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord!

And Even with All the Perfection and Power of God’s Goodness Given...

There are those who say God is not Good—Jesus says God alone is good!

How twisted and ironic that those who are NOT good accuse God of not being good!

II. THE SEVERITY OF GOD

A. DEFINED

1. Paul said, consider “the goodness and severity of God” (Rom 11:22)
 - a) That Means Look, Consider, Recognize, BOTH His Goodness AND His Severity
2. The word **SEVERITY** (apotomia – ἀποτομία) literally means to “cut off”
 - a) The root word of Severity is SEVER; Severity: “to sharply abruptly cut off”

B. DESCRIBED

1. Like When the Prodigal Son wanted the inheritance of his father early...
 - a) It was as if he was saying—I wish you were dead so I could have my inheritance...
But Since your not dead I want it now anyway...
 - b) What did the father do? —He Let Him Go... The same day he asked...
2. Because of the **GOODNESS** of the Father’s heart—
he gave him the inheritance his son did not deserve
3. But Because of his father’s just **SEVERITY**—His son was cut off...
From his fathers fellowship, relationship, Approval, Acceptance, Blessings.

C. DISPLAYED

- 1. God wants to give good gifts to His People! (Deuteronomy 8:6–10)**
 - a) God gives good gifts that are intended to be enjoyed and appreciated
 - 2. But God warns His children not to forget! (Deuteronomy 8:11–17)**
 - 3. Those Who Forget the goodness of God will be cut off (8:18–20)**
 - 4. This was the Tragic Mistake Israel Made Time and Again...**
 - a) They forgot the blessings of God and took credit for themselves... and when the Messiah Jesus arrived they refused to accept the gospel.
 - b) They Forgot the Lord and Had Created Their Own form of Righteousness
 - 5. Paul was a Former Pharisee who had made the same mistake himself!**
 - a) He tried to warn that rejecting the goodness of God, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, results in being cut off from the grace of God. (Romans 11:22)
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III. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. STAY THANKFUL FOR THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- 1. Some people become so selfish that God's Goodness is not only forgotten, it's actually Despised (Romans 2:4)**
- 2. Think of the basis of Satan's Lie to Eve in the Garden—>God is Not Good!**
 - a) He Doesn't want you to be Like Him!
 - b) He Doesn't Want You to Have Knowledge of Good and Evil,
 - c) He Doesn't Want Your Eyes Open, He doesn't Want you to be Free or Happy
- 3. Staying Thankful to God is a Part of Staying Faithful to God**
 - a) Eve was no longer thankful and as a result no longer faithful
- 4. Staying thankful for God's goodness is a central part of worship—**
 - a) Singing praising to God for His goodness (Ps 135:3)
 - b) Telling about His greatness and goodness (Ps 145:7)
- 5. Those Who Don't Worship God—**

are not Thankful to God—They're too busy for God!

 - a) Think about Rich Young Ivy League college students protesting their oppression
 - b) and by any socio-economic standard they are the **less than 1% of the World**
 - c) And the **less than .001%** of every Human Being who's ever lived in History of world!
 - d) But they are the Oppressed and they want to tear the whole system down!
 - e) Not even being the less than .001% of history of world meets their expectations!
Not even God meets their expectations

If the Creator of the Universe does not meet your expectations—then nothing will!

If God is not good enough for you—then nothing will be good enough for you!

—Don't Despise the Goodness of God—Stay Thankful for the Goodness of God

B. STAY THANKFUL FOR THE PATIENCE OF GOD

- 1. God's Goodness is shown in His mercy (Ps 86:5; 136:1)**
 - a) God is long-suffering—not wanting anyone to perish but all come to repentance
- 2. Unthankful People Are The Most Miserable People**
 - a) You may think they are unthankful because they are unhappy.
 - b) That is not true. In fact, the opposite is true.
 - c) They are unhappy because they are unthankful....
- 3. The Lie of Unthankfulness is: If Things Were Different I'd Be Happy!**
 - a) If God did what I want—then I'd BE Happy!
 - b) If God Gave Me What I Want—Then I'd Be Happy!
 - c) But the truth is that if you aren't thankful for the little things today,
you won't be thankful for the big ones tomorrow.
- 4. Jesus Gives a Parallel (Luke 16:10-15 NIV)**
 - a) If you aren't thankful for the little things today,
you won't be thankful for the big things tomorrow. (Nahum 1:7)

—Don't Despise the Patience of God—Stay Thankful for His Patience

C. STAY THANKFUL FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF GOD

- 1. God is Good and He is Patient—But His Patience Has a Limit...**
 - a) and when that limit is reached He Disciplines those He Loves so they will repent
before it's too late and He Cuts them Off (Hebrews 12:10)
- 2. Be Thankful for the Discipline of the Lord...**
 - a) Don't ask, why is this happening to me?
you could spin on that the rest of your life and never know or grow
 - b) Ask, what does God want me to learn from this?
then start studying His word
- 3. God is Good—and He Disciplines Us for Our Good (Deuteronomy 8:2–5)**
- 4. Better to be Disciplined by the Lord now than to be cut off from the Lord
for Eternity on Judgement Day (Romans 11:22)**

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The Goodness and Severity of God is Seen at the Cross...**
 - a. The Goodness of God is proven—when God gave His Son to die for our sins
 - b. The Severity of God is shown—when Jesus took upon Himself the severity of God and
was cut off for the sins of the world
- 2. The last word that Jesus spoke was telestai... 'It is finished'**
 - a. That word literally means, it is "Paid in full"
 - b. Jesus paid our debt of sin—the penalty of death—on the cross
- 3. His Goodness and His Severity are both involved in our salvation**