

Is God Really Good?

We often sing a song, *“God Is So Good.”* The song says that God is so good to me. Is God good to me? When my life is a struggle, when I face extreme hardship, when I am dealing with illness, is God good to me? When I am lonely, when I am excluded, when I am depressed, is God good to me? I think most people have questioned at one time or another, *“If God is really good, then why am I suffering so?”* Why doesn’t God step in and relieve my stress, my hardship, my failing health, my disappointments? If God really does care for me, wouldn’t He want to make my life better?

The scriptures insist that God is good. Good in His character, good in His actions, good in His timing, and good in His intentions toward His people. Even when my life is not good, God still is. God doesn’t try to be good, He is good. The psalmist said, *“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34.8)*. Again, in *Psalm 119.68 “You are good and do good.”* The prophet Nahum said, *“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble” (Nahum 1.7)*. God’s goodness is not something He does occasionally. It is eternal in His nature.

If God is so good, and so good to me, then why do I not recognize it in my life? Many people only focus on their struggles instead of realizing all the good going on around them. God is good to me because He gives me every breath I take. The air that I breathe, every sunrise and sunset I enjoy, every joy that comes my way, are all because of the goodness of God. James, the half-brother of Jesus, said, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1.17)*. Yes, I may face difficulties in my life, but if I love God and do His will, He provides everything I need to sustain me (Matthew 6.33).



I may not realize it, but God’s goodness is revealed in His patience with me. God is continually giving me time to align my life to His will so I can be saved. The apostle Peter said, *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3.9)*. When I question God’s goodness, I should consider the fact that just because I am not cut down in my sins, that is not proof that God will not punish the me, but as a demonstration that He is patient, and is willing to give me time to repent and be saved. Isn’t God good!

Gary

Voluntary Restraint

Matthew 5.5

- 1) What do you think about when you hear the word “restraint?”
- 2) While the world sees restraint as loss, Scripture reveals it as strength, wisdom, and freedom.
- 3) That contrast becomes the doorway into showing how Christlike restraint is not imposed from the outside but chosen from the inside.

I) The _____ of Meekness.

- A) Literally, the Greek word translated “*meek*” means _____, _____.
- 1) It is impossible to describe meekness with just one word.
 - 2) The term mild or gentle in the English language suggest weakness, whereas the Greek word has no such meaning.
- B) Biblical examples of people who were referred to as meek include:
- 1) _____ (Numbers 12.3).
 - 2) _____ (Matthew 11.29; John 2.15; Matthew 23; Mark 3.5).

II) _____ of Meekness.

- A) When being _____ (Numbers 12).
- B) Releasing the _____ (I Samuel 23.17).
- C) As the object of _____ (II Samuel 16.5-14).
- D) During the _____ (Matthew 27.39-44; I Peter 2.23).

III) _____ of Meekness.

- A) By the _____ (James 1.21).
- B) During _____ of a brother (Galatians 6.1).
- C) As part of your _____ (Ephesians 4.1, 2).
- D) How _____ are to adorn themselves (I Peter 3.1, 4).
- E) While _____ (I Peter 3.15).

IV) _____ of Meekness.

- A) Those who are meek are best able to enjoy earth’s blessings.
- B) The promise means the meek will be rewarded in the world to come.

Conclusion: *Do you need to bring your strength under control today?*

CONNECTION

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GOOD MORNING CHURCH FAMILY!

R

Last weekend I officiated a graveside service for a former member. I made it to the cemetery early because I didn't know exactly where the graveside would be, but the funeral home assured me that there were signs to direct me. "Just find the name I was looking for at the entrance and follow the signs." Simple enough, right?

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I saw the name I was looking for at the entrance, with an arrow that pointed right. Unfortunately, there were many funerals that day and there were many names with arrows that pointed right. As I turned and headed down one of the streets in the cemetery, I came to an intersection that had 3 signs, all saying, "funeral route" and had an arrow pointing in a different direction! No names, just arrows! I became hopelessly lost trying turn after turn to find the right graveside.

E

R

Finally, I saw a groundskeeper driving by on a four-wheeler and I flagged him down to ask if he knew where the graveside service was. He had a map and he looked at it and said, "there it is." I asked if he could tell me, he said "Come on, I'll show you." I followed him and in just a couple of minutes we were in the right place. I thanked him and he went on his way. I was waiting for a couple of our members who were going to sing for the service. I called them and they too were lost. I told them to come to the entrance, and I would lead them to the right site. I found them and they followed me in and we had a nice service with the family.



This experience got me to thinking about the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. He was reading scripture "on the road" when he was approached by Philip, who was being led by the Holy Spirit to connect with this man. Philip asked him in verse 30, "Do you understand what you are reading?" "How can I unless someone instructs me" replied the eunuch. In verse 35, the word says, "And beginning with that same scripture, Philip taught him the Good News of Jesus Christ." The eunuch believed, asked to be baptized that very moment and "went on his way rejoicing!"

The groundskeeper's words resonated with me; "Come on, I'll show you." What if we took the same approach to sharing our hope in Jesus, the forgiveness of our sins and release from shame and guilt with those who are without it? Personal touch, human connection can make all the difference in bringing someone to Christ.

Who do you know that needs to know Jesus, needs hope and grace? Try reaching out and telling them "Come on, I'll show you" -- You'll be blessed and may help save someone's soul.

--LES KEELE

SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
*Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams	662-321-3208
Pulpit Minister	
Les Keele	817-808-0566
Associate Minister	
James Bowie	817-944-4492

THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

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Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Layton Garner

Song Leader - Matt Sloan

Song - Step by Step

Song - Ten Thousand Reasons

Song - Gratitude

Opening Prayer - Brandon Duncan

Scripture - Matthew 5:5

Song - Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Song - Come to the Table

Lord's Supper - Arthur Torrez

Prayer For Contribution - Arthur Torrez

Song - Jesus, Meek and Gentle

Voluntary Restraint - Gary Williams

Song - Do You Know My Jesus?

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal - Russ Bartee

Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

Our Code For Tithley Giving



Our Code For Attendance



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, March 2

Leviticus 26-27; 1 John 5

Tuesday, March 3

Psalm 68; Numbers 1-2

Wednesday, March 4

Psalm 134; Numbers 3-4

Thursday, March 5

Psalm 61; Numbers 5-6

Friday, March 6

Psalm 99; Numbers 7

Saturday, March 7

Numbers 8-10; 2 Timothy 1

LAST WEEK

Bible Class	119	Wednesday	80
Worship	216	Online	3
Thai-Lao	33	Contribution	\$9,961.80
On-Line Sunday	26	Budget	\$15,372.28

TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM

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