

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Psalm 100 “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. **For the LORD is good;** His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”

Quote: “God doesn’t work on our timetable. He has a plan that He will execute perfectly and for the highest, greatest good of all, and for His ultimate glory.” C.R. Swindoll

Goodness is “that which disposes God to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men.”¹ David wrote of God, “You are good, and do good; Teach me your statutes.”² The goodness that God does is merely a reflection of the goodness that God is at all times and in all places. The goodness and mercy of God are a frequent pairing throughout the Scriptures. “For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”³ In fact, mercy “can be defined as the goodness or the love of God towards those who are in misery or distress as the result of their sin, and irrespective of (what they deserve).”⁴ In our rebellion, God’s goodness leads us to repent unto salvation— “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”⁵ In our misery, God’s goodness shows us mercy, pity and compassion— “I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.”⁶ In our sinfulness, His goodness demonstrates itself in longsuffering or patience. “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”⁷ In our time of need, God’s goodness faithfully supplies. “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”⁸

Considering God’s goodness, Charles Spurgeon wrote,

“He is essentially, perpetually, superlatively, infinitely good. Take away God’s goodness and He ceases to be Himself! He is continuously good without end. His goodness surpasses all others and is immeasurably, inconceivably great. Oh how we should give thanks for His goodness that shines forth in His grace, mercy, longsuffering, compassion, protection and provision.” The author of Psalm 107 exclaims, “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so....” He then describes four intense trials, each of which was followed by petition and praise— “Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He delivered them out of their distresses.” “Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for *His goodness*, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” He concludes with, “Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness (goodness) of the LORD.”⁹

“Lord, at your feet I humbly fall, And I give you all I have, all that your love requires.... Take care of me in this hour of test. Do not let me have the thoughts of a complainer. Make me feel your power which gives life and I will learn to praise you while carrying your cross.” So wrote “one of God’s faithful missionaries, Allen Gardiner, who experienced many severe hardships throughout his service to the Savior. Despite his troubles, he said, ‘While God gives me strength, failure will not daunt me.’ In 1851, at the age of 57, he died of disease and starvation while serving on Picton Island at the southern tip of South America. When his body was found, his diary lay nearby. It bore the record of hunger, thirst, wounds, and loneliness. The last entry showed the struggle of his shaking hand as he tried to write legibly. It read, ‘*I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God.*’”¹⁰ Only against the backdrop of God’s goodness in sacrificing His only Son so that rebels might have eternal life can a dying man offer praise like that in the worst of circumstances.¹¹ *Praise God for His goodness!*

God is Good!

1 A.W. Tozer 2 Psalm 19:68 3 Psalm 100:5 4 D.M. Lloyd Jones 5 Romans 2:4 6 Psalm 27:13 7 Psalm 86:5 8 Philippians 4:19 9 Psalm 107:6, 8 13, 15, 19, 21, 28, 31 10 bible.org, author unknown 11 John 3:16