

Pastor's Pen

James 1:17 – 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.

Is God Good?

God's goodness seems to be the first of His attributes to be questioned in today's context. I have many classmates from Liberty University who, upon graduation, started to experience real hardship. Some who were even in school to become pastors could not reconcile God's goodness with life's trials. Most of those classmates walked away from a real trust that God is in fact good. Typically they move on to believing that if He cannot be good, then He cannot be God or even exist.

Today, a virus is causing hardship for some physically, for some socially, some financially and for most a mixture of all three. Each of those issues brings something we call a trial. Something that will literally "try" what we are made of, to see if we are made of something that lasts or that crumbles. The hurdle that many of my classmates faced was the question of "If God is good, then why would he put something in my life that will cause me discomfort or 'try' me?" At that point what the asker of that question does not realize is that they have not placed themselves as God and sought to define good. This line of thinking declares that goodness expressed toward me may never contain trial or hardship. Goodness toward me must always contain delightful ease and protect that delightful ease at all costs. That is not how Scripture defines the expression of God's goodness. In James chapter 1, the reader is told to actually rejoice at trials because they are meant to build maturity in us, which is good! And if it is good for us, then James 1:17 says that it is from God. Therefore, Biblical goodness expressed toward me is whatever transforms me to be more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29). But if we play God and seek to make define things apart from Him, we always set ourselves on a foundation that will crumble. In fact, every time we complain we are unknowingly trying to redefine good and measure God by it.

As we approach Easter, I want us to consider one more way that God has been good to us. God crushed His own Son under the weight of His holiness as His wrath was poured out on Him for our sins. If we were to use our man-made definition of goodness, then it would be a heinous thing God did to His own Son and He could never be called good.

But if we understand that Jesus, dying on the cross for us out of a love for us, was meant for God's glory (which is the ultimate definer of good) and our salvation, then we can sing of God's goodness with every breath. May we seek to rejoice in God's goodness and express that goodness toward our God and our neighbor.

Pastor Jamie Ezzell

Quote of the Week

"God never gives *all* He has to give. The time will never come, when He has nothing more to bestow. We never reach the *best* in Divine blessings: there is always something *better* yet to come. Every door that opens into His treasury of love — shows another door into another treasury beyond. The yet *unrevealed*, is ever better than the already revealed. We need not fear that we shall ever come to the end of God's goodness, or to any experience for which He will have no blessing ready."

– J. R. Miller

Quote of the Week

Grace Gems

Goodness is an essential property of the Divine nature, and is manifest in the *provision* God has made for conferring happiness on the creatures he has made. He himself claims this attribute, "Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth!" Exodus 34:6. "They shall utter abundantly the memory of your great goodness, and shall sing of your righteousness." Goodness belongs only to God; he is alone good, Matthew 19:17. All the goodness found in creatures, is only an emanation of the Divine goodness. He is the *chief* good — the sum and substance of all felicity.

This attribute has different designations, according to the different objects on which it terminates.

When it confers happiness without merit — it is called *grace*.

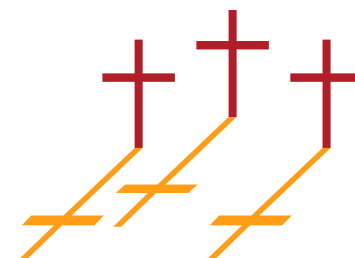
When it commiserates the wretched and makes them happy, it is called *mercy*.

When it defends the innocent, it is called *righteousness*.

When it delays to punish sinners, it is called *patience* and long-suffering.

When it pardons the guilty, it is called *forgiveness*.

When it bestows blessings according to promise, it is called *truth*.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

Adult Old Testament
Adult New Testament
Young Adults / Couples



Weekday Meetings

Tuesdays | 7PM
Worship Team, for more info contact
pastorcal@ghbcva.org

Wednesdays | 6:30PM
Youth Meeting & AWANA



Family Groups

Men's Mondays @7pm
Pastor Mark's Thursdays @7pm
Lane/Keffer Thursdays @7pm
Royall's Thursdays @7pm



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



Children's Studies

Children's Sunday School at 9:00 AM
For more info contact admin@ghbcva.org



Service Times

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Giving from service on 04.05.20

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| General Offering | 5,065.20 |
| Building Fund | 2,032.60 |
| Benevolence | 100.00 |
| Annie Armstrong | 50.00 |
| Total | 7,247.80 |

Attendance ...10 present
72 online connections

Got Questions

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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