

**Sermon Title: Gripped by the Goodness of God**

**Sermon Text: Psalm 119:68**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to understand the goodness of God.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 5 important truths about the goodness of God.**

God is good by nature and good is what He does. We live in a time when people question the goodness of God.

Do you question God's goodness based on our circumstances or situations, feelings, or by revelation from the Word of God?

Genesis 3:1-7 Satan's implication that God didn't want Eve to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden was that God was selfish. He wasn't good, in other words.

Losing sight of God's goodness can plunge you, your family and the rest of the world into sin. We tend to call God's goodness into question because of the one thing we wish was different about our lives.

**I. Gripped by the **standard** of God's goodness. (Mark 10:17-18)**

The goodness of God is the standard by which anything called good must be judged. Anything called good must find its source in God.

A. The **standard** of what is good is God. (Mark 10:17-18)

B. The **source** of what is good is God. (James 1:17)

Drugs have a way of making a person feel good temporarily, but drugs are not good.

Some people want to define goodness based on their emotions "If it feels good, do it." If something makes them feel good for the moment, it must be good. Some people mistake the mere existence of something for its moral quality. If it's available to them, it has to be good.

"God only produces that which is good. So if something is not good, it did not come from God."

The issue of goodness is its source, not its experience.

Yes, God is sovereign and He allows things for reasons we don't always understand, but the Bible makes clear that God does not participate in sin in any way. There is no defect in Him.

**II. Gripped by the **expression** of God's goodness. (Ex. 33:18-19; 34:5-7)**

The goodness of God is expressed in and through His various characteristics. In other words, you know God is good by simply looking at who He is.

A. God's goodness is expressed in His **compassion** toward man.

B. God's goodness is expressed in His **graciousness** toward man.

C. God's goodness is expressed in His **longsuffering** toward man.

D. God's goodness is expressed in His **loving kindness** toward man.

E. God's goodness is expressed in His **truthfulness**.

F. God's goodness is expressed in His **forgiveness**.

G. God's goodness is expressed in His **judgments**.

1) In the Bible, patience means not avenging wrong done to you even though you have the power and the right to do so.

2) Grace means giving your absolute best to someone who deserves your absolute worst.

### III. Grippled by the demonstration of God's goodness. (Genesis 1:27-32)

"God's goodness is not demonstrated equally. God is good to all in some ways, but He's good to some in all ways."

- A. God's goodness is demonstrated in His earthly provisions.  
**Acts 14:17** "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."
- B. God's goodness is demonstrated to all mankind.  
**Matthew 5:45** "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
- C. God's goodness is demonstrated to His people. (**1 Timothy 4:1-5**)  
**Romans 8:32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?  
"It is a sin not to enjoy God's goodness. It is a sin to deny and pervert His goodness, as these people were doing. Everything that God created is good and meant to be enjoyed by those who know the truth." We should enjoy God's goodness with an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving. Christians acknowledge that all good things come from God by thanking Him for them and in them. Once you apply God's Word to something as the standard for determining that it is good, and then pray over it as a way of giving it back to God, you have sanctified it.
  - 1. Poor giving of the tithe reflects ingratitude.
  - 2. Poor giving of time for service reflects ingratitude.
  - 3. Poor giving of thanks for God's goodness reflects ingratitude.**Psalm 31:19** Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!  
**Psalm 84:11** For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.  
**Lamentations 3:22** *Through* the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. **23** *They are* new every morning; Great *is* Your faithfulness.

### IV. Grippled by the transcendence of God's goodness. (Rom. 8:28-29, 31-32, 35-37)

- A. God's goodness transcends our living in a sinful world.
- B. God's goodness transcends by turning bad into good.
- C. God's goodness transcends by transforming us into conquerors.

### V. Grippled by the worship of God's goodness. (Ps. 107:1-2a)

- A. Worship should be expressed by the **praise** of our lips.
- B. Worship should be expressed by the **celebration** of His redemption of us.  
(**Ps. 107:2b-3; 7-9; 13-14**)
- C. Worship should be expressed by our **thanksgiving**.

"One day a puritan was sitting down to a meal of bread and water. Most of us would say, "God, I only have bread and water."

But the Puritan looked down at his plate and said, "Bread and water and Jesus Christ too! What more can a man ask?"

Praise is not complete until it has been expressed. (Ps. 34:8; 37:4)