

Doctrine of Divine Goodness

1. In studying the Seven Letters of Love to the seven churches of Asia in the book of the *Revelation*, it is easy to sense the severity and justice of the Lord and forget His goodness.
2. The goodness of God is a large theme in *Scripture*. From the Pentateuch to the last book of the Bible God reveals His divine goodness.
3. An early reference to divine goodness in Scripture is found on the lips of Jethro, the father in Law of Moses from the land of the Midians.
 - *Exodus 18:9 And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.*
4. In one splendid moment Moses was allowed to see the goodness of God according to promise.
 - *Exodus 33:19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.*
 - *Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,*
5. Sometimes those who are invited to unite with the people of God to witness the goodness of the Lord refuse to do so as did Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law.
 - *Numbers 10:29 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel. 30 And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred.*
6. David boldly reminded the Lord in his prayers of the promised goodness that had been foretold God would do for Him.
 - *2 Samuel 7:28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:*
7. When the goodness of God is clearly manifested to a people it makes their hearts joyful and glad.
 - *1 Kings 8:66 On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.*

8. David appealed to the promised goodness of God towards him as the basis of having his prayer answered.
 - *1 Chronicles 17:26 And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:*
9. Those who see the goodness of God can return from the act of worship with a spirit of joy.
 - *2 Chronicles 7:10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.*
10. To encourage the people of Israel, Nehemiah reviewed for them the goodness of God during the days of the Exodus generation.
 - *Nehemiah 9:25 And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and olive yards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.*
11. Part of the national repentance of Israel following the Babylonian exile included the fact that the goodness of God had been taken advantage of.
 - *Nehemiah 9:35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.*
12. The psalmist recognized that the ultimate source of goodness is God.
 - *Psalms 16:2 O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; [lit. I have no good beyond Thee].*
13. The goodness of God is the cause of great rejoicing.
 - *Psalm 21:1 The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice...3 For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.*
14. Remembrance of the Lord's past goodness gives the heart hope of more goodness to come.
 - *Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*
15. When God does not hold the sins of immaturity against us it is because of His intrinsic goodness.

- *Psalms 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*

16. A loss of hope of the goodness of God can plunge the soul into abject despair.

- *Psalms 27:13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

17. God has a reservoir of goodness to manifest towards those who love Him and keep His commandments.

- *Psalms 31:19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*

18. The whole earth reflects the goodness of God for He makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike.

- *Psalms 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.*

19. Reflecting upon the goodness of God will cause the heart to abandon any pride in the human goodness of relative righteousness.

- *Psalms 52:1 Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually.*

20. In the act of worship the goodness of God is perceived and enjoyed.

- *Psalms 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.*

21. The earth that yields a full harvest does so because of the goodness of God which is one reason why food is to be blessed and thanksgiving given before meals.

- *Psalms 65:11 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.*

22. The goodness of God must be shared with others. From the resources of the Church others must be helped.

- *Psalms 68:10 Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.*

23. The people of God are to be exhorted often to praise the Lord for His goodness.

- *Psalms 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! (cf. 107:9, 15, 21, 31).*
24. For those who hunger after righteousness and spiritual realities the Lord will satisfy the soul and fill it with the goodness of doctrine and a closeness to Himself.
- *Psalms 107:9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*
25. The mature saint will understand that God is the ultimate source of all goodness.
- *Psalms 144:1 Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: 2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.*
26. In genuine worship there is the conscience memory of the great goodness of God and the singing of His praises.
- *Psalms 145:7 They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.*
 - *Isaiah 63:7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.*
27. The goodness of God can be abused and defiled.
- *Jeremiah 2:7 And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.*
28. When God is pleased to bring a people to gospel repentance He causes them to praise Him.
- *Jeremiah 31:12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.*
29. When God is pleased to bless a people He pours out upon them the gifts of Divine grace.
- *Jeremiah 31:14 And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.*

30. When God's goodness blesses a people the news can go forth to the ends of the earth to the praise of His glory and grace.
- *Jeremiah 33:9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.*
 - *Hosea 3:5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.*
31. The heart of God is grieved because His people receive His blessings and forget to praise Him. Their own relative goodness is like the morning dew. It is a thin vapor with the result being more transgression.
- *Hosea 6:4 O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? For your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.*
 - *Hosea 10:1 Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.*
32. Those who reflect upon the goodness of God are always astonished at His graciousness.
- *Zechariah 9:17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! Corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.*
33. One great purpose of divine goodness is to lead the soul to repentance.
- *Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*
34. The Christian is commanded to seriously consider the goodness and the severity of God.
- *Romans 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*
35. Christians can manifest a part of the divine essence by being full of goodness as a result of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- *Romans 15:14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*
 - *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

- *Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)*

36. Believers can and should pray that others might know the goodness of God.

- *2 Thessalonians 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:*