

Knowledge of the Holy

A study on the attributes of God based upon the AW Tozer book of the same name.

The Goodness of God

“The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people.” AW Tozer

Let that sink in please. “God takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people.”

Think of the creation narrative- each day he worked, he declared it “good” and on the 6th day he declared it all “very good”. The first book of the New testament contains the Sermon on the Mount, a sermon which begins with what are known as the beatitudes- Each beatitude begins with “Blessed” revealing a key to enjoying the blessed walk with God.

God’s goodness is everywhere- yet we can fail to see it or experience it- Why is that so?

Knowing that God is good- being convinced of it is foundational to living a joy filled, confident life.

Moses had the incredible task of leading God’s people- and He cried out to God. Moses had witnessed God’s Power- But what he needed to see was God’s goodness.

Exodus 33:12-21- Moses wanted to see God’s Glory- God showed Him his goodness. The LORD did a same thing for the discouraged Elijah recorded in 1 Kings 19.

In what ways can we daily see the goodness of God?

What role does a healthy church life play in the need to see the goodness of God? Explain.

Naomi and Ruth found the goodness of God among God’s people. They were in a desperate spot, yet they travelled to the land of God’s people, and Ruth because of her devotion to her mother-in-law and the God of her mother-in-law, she found favor from God. Ruth 2:11-13, 20.

Why do some professing Christians not enjoy the presence of God’s goodness in church life?

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“Divine goodness, as one of God’s attributes is self-caused, infinite, perfect, and eternal. Since God is immutable, He never varies in the intensity of His loving-kindness. He has never been kinder than He is now, now will he ever be less kind. He is no respecter of persons but makes his sun to shine on the evil as well as on the good and sends His rain on the just and unjust. (Matt. 5:45). The cause of his goodness is in Himself; the recipients of His goodness are all His beneficiaries without merit and without recompense.”- AW Tozer

Many do not enjoy this goodness because they are living in rebellion. They have the attitude of the grumbler, the complainer. Their mouths echo the words of disobedient Israelites in the wilderness. (Numbers 11:1-6, 10)

“By our own attitudes we may determine our reception by Him. The kindness of God is infinite, overflowing fountain or Cordiality, god will not force His attention upon us. The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but His goodness encourages us not to be afraid of HIM. To fear and not be afraid- that is the paradox of faith.” – AW Tozer

The Bible tells throughout of the goodness of our God.

Psalm 16

Psalm 23

Psalm 27:1,13

Psalm 34:8-16

John 10:11

The whole outlook of mankind might be changed if we could all believe that we dwell under a friendly sky and that the God of heaven, though exalted in power and majesty, is eager to be friends with us. – AW TOZER