



There is a simple three-word phrase repeated quite regularly within the Church. We sing it in the lyrics of hymns and songs of praise. We hear it proclaimed in times of answered prayer as well as times of struggle and heartache. We see it reflected throughout the pages of Scripture, bringing hope and comfort to our souls. And the cross is proof that every word is true. Have you guessed the three simple words? GOD IS GOOD! It is not just a statement to describe what He does; it is a declaration of who He is. God can never be anything less than good.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
(Psalm 118:1 NIV)*

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:5 NIV)

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. (Nahum 1:7 NIV)

As I shift the lens of observation to myself, it is clear I am not good. Paul refers to this human condition in Romans 7, “*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*” (v. 18 ESV) Wise King Solomon concurs, “*Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.*” (Ecclesiastes 7:20 ESV) Even Jesus points this out to the rich young ruler approaching him in pursuit of eternal life, saying, “*Why do you call me good? No one is good – except God alone.*” (Mark 10:18 NIV) Here Jesus is claiming the truth of His deity. He is the goodness and loving kindness of God who came to save us from our sin and give us the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4)

Maybe you have heard this familiar Morning Prayer by an unknown author, “Dear Lord, So far, I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, haven’t been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or indulgent. I’m really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I’m going to get out of bed. And from then on, I’m going to need a lot more help!” Can anyone relate? As silly as this prayer is, it speaks a lot of truth. If I desire goodness in my life, then essentially, I am desiring more of Jesus and His Spirit at work in my everyday moments. The apostle Paul prayed a similar prayer for the Thessalonian believers, “*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*” (2 Thess. 1:11-12 NIV)

God is good! And it was His good plan accomplished at the cross; the moment when He chose to exchange our sinfulness for His righteousness. Good Friday is just around the corner. May we remember the goodness of our God in this selfless act of love and grace. As we look to the cross, may our hearts be compelled to demonstrate the goodness of our God to people He has placed in our path. To Him be all glory, honor and praise!