God IS Good

Psalm 73:1-2, 28
1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

...  
28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

God Is Good

- God is good
  - All the time
    - And all the time
      - God is good.
  - We all know that.
    - We know that it is true.
      - God is good.
    - That’s a truth that does not change.
      - Circumstance doesn’t change that.
      - Culture doesn’t change that.
      - Science can’t change that.
      - Philosophy can’t change that.
      - Government can’t change that.
        - God is good.
  - This is a foundational truth.
    - It is one that we all accept at face value.
      - As a matter of fact, we would get offended
        - if someone argued otherwise.
      - We would get stirred up in our righteous indignation
        - Because this is a truth that is not up for debate.
      - No matter what anybody says.
        - No matter what anyone does.
          - No matter what is going on around us.
            - God IS Good!
  - The thing I’m wondering tonight,
    - Is not whether or not you know it.
      - I believe everyone here knows it.
        - God is good.
    - My question is this:
      - Do you believe it?
  - Think about it for a minute.
    - It is one thing to know a thing
      - To check that mental box that says
God Is Good

- Yes! I know that God is good
  - The Bible says so
  - The preacher says so
  - My momma told me so
- I've got that head knowledge.
  - It is as settled as 2+2=4
    - As the sun rising in the east.
    - God IS Good.
  - But, it is another thing, entirely, to really believe it.
    - To believe it with all your heart and being.
- To embrace a conscious conviction
  - I don't just know he's good.
    - I believe it.
- Circumstance might change what I know.
  - But what I believe
    - Is not contingent on circumstance
  - What I believe rises from faith
    - Faith is not about what I see
    - Faith is not about what I feel
    - Faith is not about the empirical evidence.
  - Faith is about what my heart knows.
    - What my spirit knows.
    - What my innermost man knows.
- My head knowledge is always evolving.
- I'm constantly learning new things.
  - What I know today
    - May change tomorrow.
- But my faith, while it grows, it does not change.
  - I believe God is good
    - and nothing will ever change that.
  - No scientific evidence
    - Will ever change that conclusion.
- In my present circumstance
  - God is good!
- No matter what is going on.
  - God is good.
- No matter what is happening...
  - God is good
- No matter what the doctor says...
  - Lawyer...
  - Banker...
  - My boss at work...
- There may be a subtle difference
  - between knowing and believing
    - But it is an important distinction.
Because what you know can be challenged.
- But what you believe does not rely on evidence.
- If I know God is good,
  - The evidence might possibly change my conviction.
- But if I believe it,
  - All the evidence in the world will never shake my faith.

- Listen to me:
  - You’ve gotta take it by faith:
    - You’ve gotta believe it in your heart
      - God IS good!
  - This is important because it affects everything.
    - It affects your outlook on life,
      - It affects your perspective
        - on the things that happen in your life.
      - It affects your attitude
        - In good times and bad
    - It affects your witness to a lost world
      - It affects everything about the Christian life.

Psalm 63:3

3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

- Loving kindness is another way
  - of talking about the goodness of God.
    - The Psalmist said his goodness is better than life!
- That’s a big statement!
  - But whenever bad stuff happens in our lives,
    - it can affect our perception of God’s goodness.
      - But the Psalmist said
        - Truly God is good...
          - No matter what is going on in my life!
        - In fact: His goodness is better than life itself.
          - There’s nothing in life so bad
            - That it overwhelms his goodness!
          - This is what you’ve got to believe.
            - No matter what is happening in life
              - God is good.
  - It is the dark times in life
    - that cause us to ask the question:
      - Is God good?
        - Is He really good?
          - Is He good all the time?
- If you are going to survive
  - everything this life is going to throw at you
    - You need to lay the foundation
• of the goodness of God
  o in your heart
  o You need to settle here and now
    ▪ God is good, all the time
    ▪ And all the time, God is good.
  o He’s better than you think he is.
    ▪ He’s better than you have ever imagined.
      ▪ He’s better than your circumstance
      ▪ He’s better than your life.
        ▪ He’s better than your best day.
        ▪ He’s better than your darkest night.
        ▪ He’s better than life itself.
  o God is good
    ▪ All his ways are good
    ▪ Everything He does is good
    ▪ In my worst moment,
      ▪ In my darkest valley
        ▪ When everything is going wrong
          ▪ God is good!!!!

Psalm 31:19
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!

• You’ve got to get this word picture:
  o God has “laid up” goodness
    ▪ For them that trust in him.
  o David is saying that God has a warehouse full of goodness
    ▪ That he will deliver to you
      ▪ In the midst of your trouble
        ▪ if you will only believe that he is good!

• Watch this:

Exodus 33:18-19
18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.
19 And he (GOD) 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.

• Moses asks to see the glory of God.
  o God says: I will show you my goodness.
    ▪ Gods glory is on display in his goodness!
  o The goodness of God is the expression of his glory!
• Come on somebody: God is good.
  o Out of his goodness
    ▪ He is Merciful
  o Out of the depths of his goodness
    ▪ He is Gracious
  o Because of his goodness
    ▪ He is Longsuffering
  o He is your provider because he's good.
  o He keeps his promise because he's good.
  o He makes a way where there seems to be no way...
  o He opens the door that no man can open...
• Psalm 27 is a psalm of confidence and courage.
  o It starts with the question, “whom shall I fear?”
    ▪ It ends with the command to “wait on the Lord” and to “be of good
courage.”
    ▪ And in the middle of it all is the goodness of the Lord!

Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they
stumbled and fell.
3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise
against me, in this will I be confident.

... 
13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on
the Lord.

• My enemies and foes rose up against me
  o A host encamped against me.
    ▪ War and trouble came upon me...
  o Have you ever felt like that?
    ▪ Everything is against me.
      • There is trouble on every side
        o There is no evidence around me
          ▪ Of the goodness or blessing of the Lord.
• David said:
  o I would have fainted.
    ▪ My feet almost slipped.
      • I felt like I was going down for the last time.
  o But then my faith in the goodness of God stepped in.
    ▪ Not my head knowledge.
      ▪ Because what I see
        o defies what I know.
But my faith said:
  - God is good.

Watch this:
  - God did not show his goodness
    - by removing David from the trouble.
  - God displayed his goodness
    - in the midst of David’s trouble.

Don’t wait until he delivers you to praise him for his goodness.
  - It is your faith in his goodness that is going to get you through.

Don’t wait until the evidence supports the conclusion.
  - Make up your mind,
    - While everything is against you
      - God is good, all the time
        - and all the time, God is good!

Psalm 73:1-3, 28

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2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

... 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

Truly God is good...
  - Truth is absolute.
    - Truth doesn’t change.

So, before the Psalmist recounts his difficulty
  - HE recounts the foundational truth
    - that preserved him when his faith was weak
      - and his confidence was gone.
  - He said I nearly fell.
    - I was so overwhelmed by my circumstance
      - that it nearly got the best of me.
  - Out of the midst of my despair,
    - all I could see was the prosperity of the wicked.
  - I am righteous.
    - I am of a clean heart.
      - I am numbered among those who fear the Lord.
  - And there is so much trouble and chaos in my life
    - that it has nearly overwhelmed me.
      - It is almost more than I can bear.
  - And I look around me
    - and those who don’t serve God
      - seem to be blessed.
    - Those who defy the law of God
      - seem to be blessed.
When I compared my case to theirs,
  - I nearly stumbled and fell.
- It was almost more than my soul could bear.
  - I was in trouble
    - and they were not.
  - I was plagued with problems
    - but they were not.
- They are wrapped up in pride and vanity,
  - their hands are guilty of violence,
    - their hearts are far from God...
- Yet! They have more than they could ever wish for.
  - They have the wealth,
    - the riches,
    - the fine clothes,
      - the treasures of life.
- I love God.
  - But I am destitute.
    - I am broken.
      - I am empty.
- They are corrupt.
  - They speak wicked things.
    - They are arrogant in their attitude.
- They even curse God.
  - And question the very character of their creator.
- They are the ungodly
  - and look at the evidence...
    - they prosper,
      - they are getting richer by the day,
        - there seems to be no end to their fortune.
- It was almost too much for the psalmist!
  - He said, have I cleansed my heart in vain?
  - Have I washed my hands for nothing?
    - I am plagued.
    - I am rebuked.
    - I have done good,
      - but have found trouble on every side.
  - Think about it for a moment.
    - It wasn't supposed to be this way.
      - This wasn't on the brochure.
    - I'm supposed to be living the blessed life.
      - I'm supposed to be living in the favor of God.
        - What happened?
        - What went wrong?
- Have you ever felt that way?
  - When you do, you need to do what the Psalmist did.
God Is Good

Notes by Pastor Tony McCall

The Pentecostals of Lake City

- He said, I went to the sanctuary of God
  - Then I understood their end!
- I went to church
  - Then, all of a sudden, my perspective changed.
    - I was fixated on material blessing.
      - I was fixated on wealth and privilege.
      - I was concentrating on their standing in this world.
        - But I ignored their standing with God!
- Now I see it!
  - You have set them on a slippery slope.
    - They are headed for destruction.
  - They have put their confidence in their worldly success
    - They have put their hope in their riches.
      - They have ignored God
        - and think they have prospered because of it.
      - But you have put them on a path to destruction.
- When I got eternity in view.
  - When I considered their end compared to mine
    - Everything changed.
  - Listen, it is time we got eternity in view!
    - It is time we started evaluating life
      - in light of heaven's reward!
- The Psalmist said,
  - I was so foolish.
    - You never left me.
      - I was in your hand all along.
        - The path you put me on will get me to glory.
          - You were looking out for me.
  - You never abandoned me.
    - You have never forsaken me.
      - My heart and flesh may fail,
        - But you are my strength!
      - I may not have much in this life
        - But you are my portion!
  - Those that are far from you will perish.
    - But I am near to you.
      - And at the end of the day I have come to the conclusion that it is good to be close to God!
      - I have put my trust in you because you are trustworthy!
- Truly, God is good.
  - This is the foundational truth
    - that carries you
      - through every trial and heartache.
        - God is Good!
Dr Scriber’s wife: People always ask me why I like it so much here in this cabin away from everything. No cell phone. No TV. No outside world. But I have come to the conclusion, if you have to ask, you will never understand.

Bart Millard…. I can count a million times People asking me how I Can praise You with all that I've gone through The question just amazes me Can circumstances possibly Change who I forever am in You

Here's the thing: If you've got to ask, you will never understand!

God is good.
- No matter the situation.
- No matter the diagnosis.
- No matter the circumstance.
- In sunshine and rain.
- In good times and bad.
- When I’m winning and when I lose.
- When everything goes my way and when everything falls apart.
- This is not just something I know.
  - This is something I believe:
    - GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME
    - AND ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD!
- Truly god is good!