

I. The Glory of God

A. Who is like our God?

1. Psalm 89:6-14 . . . For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD, [7] a God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all those who are around Him? [8] O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. [9] You rule the swelling of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them. [10] You . . . scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm. [11] The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all it contains, You have founded them. [12] The north and the south, You have created them; [13] You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted. [14] Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You.
2. Psalm 113:5-9 . . . Who is like the LORD our God, Who is enthroned on high, [6] Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth? [7] He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, [8] to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people. [9] He makes the barren woman abide in the house as a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

B. Prayer

II. The Supremacy of God

A. One of the glories of God, that is, one of God's qualities that sets Him apart from and above everyone and everything else in the universe, is His position – which is why we call Him "God".

1. According to Webster's dictionary, the word God means the Supreme Being, and the word God is the name for the Eternal and Infinite, the Creator and Sovereign Spirit.
  - a. The word supreme means: highest in authority. Therefore, as the Supreme Being, God holds the highest place in relation to the universe's government.
  - b. The word infinite means having no limits or boundaries. In other words, God is boundless or limitless in Himself, and in all He does and wants to do.

- c. The word sovereign means Supreme or highest in power. It also speaks of a power that is independent of, and unlimited by any one or anything else. In other words, God's sovereignty is self-contained. It needs no one else or anything else to function as the supreme power in the universe.
  2. When we use all these definitions to describe the significance of God's position, what we get is this: God is the one and only self-contained and therefore wholly independent Supreme Being with unlimited power and authority over all.
- B. The important truth here is this: By God's nature and His position, He is the Supreme Being.
  1. And because He is the Supreme Being, He is the one we must deal with –
    - a. whether we believe He exists or believe He's a figment of people's imagination;
    - b. He is the one we must deal with whether we embrace Him and willingly submit to Him or rebel against Him and arrogantly reject Him;
    - c. He is the one we must deal with whether we seek Him or ignore Him;
    - d. He is the one we must deal with whether we speak of Him and to Him with humble respect and reverence, or with arrogance and contempt;
    - e. He is the one we must deal with whether we trust Him or distrust Him;
    - f. And He is the one we must deal with whether we love Him or hate Him;
    - g. regardless of what we think of God or how we see Him, we will have to deal with Him – and if we do not deal with Him in this life, we will deal with Him – for certain – in the next.
  2. The point here is simple – regardless of who you believe God to be or not to be, He is still God and you can either willingly submit to this reality or in time you will be forced to accept this reality – and nothing you can think, say or do will ever change that.
  3. Now I realize that what I am about to say may sound like I am speaking derogatorily about God. That is not the case. What I am doing is making a point about God's position in relation to us, so listen carefully. God is the Supreme Being whether He is good or bad, trustworthy or untrustworthy, holy or evil, just or unjust, loving or

selfish, kind or cruel, merciful or harsh. And why am I saying this? Because the quality of His character does not affect His position. Whether He is good or bad does not change the fact that He, alone, holds the position of Supreme Being.

4. When I say that we must deal with God as the Supreme Being, what I mean is best described by the following four scriptures.
  - a. Speaking through Isaiah, God said this about His dealings with Israel: “Now I will arise, says the LORD, now I will be exalted, now I will be lifted up. You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble; My breath will consume you like a fire. The peoples will be burned to lime, like cut thorns which are burned in the fire. You who are far away, hear what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge My might. Sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling has seized the godless. Who among you can live with the consuming fire? Who among you can live with continual burning? However, he who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, he who rejects unjust gain and shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; he who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil; he will dwell on the heights, his refuge will be the impregnable rock; his bread will be given him, his water will be sure” (Isaiah 33:10-16).
  - b. Jesus said: “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).
  - c. Hebrews says this about the Supreme Being, “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).
  - d. Later on in Hebrews, the writer sums up the response we are wise to make in light of the supremacy of God: “Since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28-29).
5. What we see in these four scriptures is that sooner or later, whether we believe in God or not, God will judge us and we will receive the due consequences of our choices and behavior. To think it is or will be otherwise is foolish and short sighted.

### III. The goodness of God

- A. Now I know I said that we must deal with God regardless of what He is like – be He benevolent or a tyrant, perfectly good or perfectly evil, or even if He is a mixture of good and evil.
1. But the marvelous truth is – God is perfectly good, we can trust Him completely, and He always and in all ways seeks our good.
    - a. John affirmed this great truth when he wrote: “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).
    - b. James says something similar when he said: “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” (James 1:17).
  2. Again, whether we believe it or not, God is perfectly good. There is no evil in Him – He never fails to do good, He is never lazy or careless. He is never inattentive or insensitive or too busy. He doesn’t reward righteousness and punish evil because He has a warped sense of justice. He doesn’t hide His laws or make His will undiscoverable. He is perfectly, completely, wholly, and without exception, good.
- B. When it comes to goodness, the word of God tells us that no one is good, except God.
1. David wrote: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ The [foolish] are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; [indeed], there is no one who does good. [2] The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. [3] They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Psalm 14:1-3).
  2. Isaiah said: “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way . . . (Isaiah 53:6).
  3. Paul taught that: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
  4. A ruler questioned [Jesus] saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” [19] And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone” (Luke 18:18-19).
  5. From Lucifer to the last person born into our world, no one is inherently good. Some are better than others, that is true. But no one is inherently or naturally or completely good, except God.

6. And yet, we who lack inherent goodness foolishly feel fully justified in judging the One who is perfectly good – as if we are not only better than Him, but know more than Him about goodness.
- C. The perfect goodness of God is revealed in a variety of ways.
1. God reveals His perfect goodness to all mankind in various ways, but I will only speak of three today.
    - a. First, God shows His goodness in His care for creation and nature. “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them” (Matthew 6:26).
    - b. Second, God shows His goodness in His care for humanity in general. Jesus states this truth in Matthew 5:44-45 . . . “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”
    - c. Third, God does not want any to perish, and so He provided a way for all to come to repentance and saving faith. As Peter said: “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).
  2. God’s perfect goodness is shown in His reinforcing and rewarding righteousness and discouraging and punishing unrighteousness
    - a. We see this in the creation of the Garden for Adam and Eve, and then Adam and Eve’s removal from the Garden. We see this in God’s call to Cain to do well and then Cain’s banishment from the presence of God. We see this in the flood which destroyed the ungodly but saved Noah and his family. And we see this in the Blessings and Curses given through Moses to Israel (Deuteronomy 28).
    - b. God promotes what is good and fights against what is evil while still leaving the door open for us to exercise our will. Though some think He has abandoned the world to the whims and actions of evil, He has not, for what we sow, we will also reap. Psalm 89:14 says: “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You.”
  3. God’s perfect goodness is shown in the perfection of His ways
    - a. Deuteronomy 32:3-4 . . . For I proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! [4] The Rock! His work is perfect,

for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

- b. Psalm 18:30a . . . As for God, His way is blameless (perfect);
  - c. Psalm 145:17-20 . . . The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds. [18] The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. [19] He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them. [20] The LORD keeps all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.
4. God's perfect goodness is shown by His faithfulness
- a. Deuteronomy 7:9 . . . Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.
  - b. Isaiah 40:8 . . . The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.
  - c. Isaiah 55:11 . . . So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
5. God's perfect goodness is shown by that fact that He loved us while we were still sinners and continues to love us as we stumble along the path of righteousness.
- a. Romans 5:8-9 . . . But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
  - b. Hebrews 4:15-16 . . . For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. [16] Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
  - c. Romans 8:28 . . . And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
6. God's perfect goodness is shown in His forgiveness of sin, empowerment and assistance for righteousness, and His desire to reconcile us to Himself.
- a. 1 John 1:9 . . . If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- b. Philippians 2:12-13 . . . So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; [13] for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
  - c. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 . . . Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, [19] namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them . . .
7. And I could go on and on, for God's perfect goodness is shown in many more ways than I have spoken of today. But for the sake of time, I will bring this to a close by reminding you that God's perfect goodness is constantly working out the greatest good for all His children, His church, and His kingdom – and He does this through His protection, provision, the Holy Spirit, His word, grace, love, discipline, trials, tribulation, persecution, sickness, and death.

#### IV. Conclusion

- A. When we bow to the reality that God is the Supreme Being and that He is perfectly good, we are able to see that there is nothing that God wills or does which is outside His perfect goodness, which means He is worthy of our complete trust all the time.
- B. And though God's position and His goodness are only two of the reasons He is glorious, they are two powerful reasons to give Him glory with our words and with how we live our lives, day in and day out.
- C. With this in mind, let us sing these words: "He is good, He is good, His love endures forever, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." And as we sing these words, I urge you to notice the combination of His goodness and His supreme position (*Lord*), for this is the God we worship, serve, obey, and love.