

# God Is Good Because...

By C. Young

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## Twenty-four Ways the Bible Specifically Shows that God is Good

### 1. God is good, always

Because God is good, He gives me things I do not deserve. He has always done that with His people. Here is an example of His goodness to Israel.

*“<sup>6</sup>Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people... <sup>29</sup>Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched out arm.”*  
(Deuteronomy 9:6,29)

Just as Israel was God’s inheritance, those who are saved receive inheritance from God today and are joint heirs with Christ. *“<sup>3</sup>For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup>Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; <sup>6</sup>Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; <sup>7</sup>That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* (Titus 3:3-7) Also, *“Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?”* (James 2:5)

Because I am a child of God, I now have the assurance of this wonderful news and promise, *“<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”* (I Peter 1:3-5)

I have an inheritance from God and I am a joint heir with Jesus Christ because God is good.  
Thank You, God!

Victory!

1. I saw a blood-washed pilgrim,  
A sinner saved by grace,  
Upon the King’s great highway  
With peaceful, shining face;  
Temptations sore beset him,  
But nothing could affright;  
He said, “The yoke is easy,  
The burden it is light.”

2. I saw him in the furnace;  
He doubted not, for feared,  
And in the flames beside him  
The Son of God appeared;  
Though seven times 'twas heated  
With all the tempter's might,  
He said, "The yoke is easy,  
The burden it is light."

3. Mid storms, and clouds, and trials,  
In prison, at the stake;  
He leaped for joy, rejoicing,  
'Twas all for Jesus' sake;  
That God should count him worthy,  
Was such supreme delight,  
He cried, "The yoke is easy,  
The burden it is light."

4. I saw him overcoming,  
Through all the swelling strife,  
Until he crossed the threshold  
Of God's Eternal Life;  
The star, the stone, the manna,  
Power, and raiment white,  
Were his, who found in Jesus,  
The yoke and burden light.\*

~R. Kelso Carter

\*See the rewards for those who overcome mentioned in Revelation chapter 2

The saints in the hall of faith, "*Of whom the world was not worthy....*" (Hebrews 11:38)  
*"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* (Revelation 12:11)

2. God is good because He blesses obedience.

*"If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day...<sup>12</sup>The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand."* (from Deuteronomy 28:1 & 12)

Although this promise is given directly to Israel along with many other promises and blessings in the same chapter, it shows a character trait of God which is consistent with His dealings with all

His children. For example, God told Joshua, *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* (Joshua 1:8) A similar promise is repeated in Psalm 1, *“<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”*

All throughout Scripture, when God gives a command, He almost always gives a blessing or a promise of good to go with the keeping of that command.

Thank You, God, that You reward those who obey You and that You encourage them by blessing them. Thank You, God, that You show Your goodness in this way.

### 3. God is good because He keeps His promises and blesses those that trust in Him

King David desired very much to build God a house, a place of worship and a place to dwell in. But, God does not dwell in earthly houses. However, God promised to allow David’s son, Solomon, to build a house for Him. Moreover, because David desired so to please God and make a place for Him, God promises to make a house for King David – to bless his descendants after him and to establish his throne and kingdom. He promised that His throne will be established forever, and that God would not take His mercy from him.

In joy and thankfulness, David worshiped God and said, *“<sup>28</sup>And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant: <sup>29</sup>Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.”* (II Samuel 7:28,29)

Has God made a promise to me? I can **know** that He will keep it. He is God and He shows His goodness by keeping His promises.

Lord, help me to be assured that none of Your promises to me will fail. Help me to trust in You. Thank You that You keep Your promises to me and that You are **always** faithful!

### 4. God is good because He gives rest to those who walk with Him and walk in His ways.

In I Kings 8:56, King Solomon said, *“Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.”*

God gives rest to His people. Psalm 23 gives a good picture of rest, *“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.”* (verse 2&3a) Jesus, the Good Shepherd, walks along with His sheep, and when His sheep are weary, He either makes a place of refreshment for them or carries them, *“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”* (Isaiah 40:11)

How do I find this rest in my Lord? Jeremiah 6:16 says, *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.”* I find rest by walking close to Jesus. *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”* (the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28,29)

5. God is good because He shows great mercy

*“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”* (1 Chronicles 16:34)

The Lord will preserve me through His mercy. The Lord shows mercy upon all those who hope in Him, *“<sup>18</sup>Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; <sup>19</sup>To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. <sup>20</sup>Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup>For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. <sup>22</sup>Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”* (Psalm 33:18-22)

It is the Lord’s mercy that has preserved me so far because God is full of compassion and faithful and His faithfulness is great. *“<sup>22</sup>It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. <sup>25</sup>The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.”*

*“<sup>5</sup>But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. <sup>6</sup>I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.”* (Psalm 13:5,6)

*“I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”* (Psalm 52:8b)

Lord, I can trust in You for the keeping of my soul, for my well being, for my protection, and for my welfare. You are good to those who wait on You. You are merciful to those who hope in You. You are faithful. Great is Your faithfulness. Help me to trust in Your mercy for ever and ever! In Jesus’ name and for His sake, Amen.

## He Keepeth Me Ever

1. He keepeth me ever,  
Whate'er be the place;  
I've but to believe it,  
Most wonderful grace!  
Though sorest temptations  
My spirit may try,  
I know my Redeemer  
Will ever be nigh.

### Chorus:

He keepeth me ever;  
His love endeth never;  
From Him naught shall sever;  
He keepeth my soul.

2. He keepeth me ever,  
With tenderest care;  
I've only to ask Him  
My burdens to bear;  
A word of His promise  
He never will break;  
Whoever may leave me,  
He ne'er will forsake.

3. He keepeth me ever,  
From yielding to dread,  
Though darkness be round me,  
And clouds overhead;  
He stilleth my doubtings,  
He lightens my grief;  
I've only to trust Him,  
He'll give me relief.

~E. R. Latta

6. God is good because He protects and provides for those who are working for Him

Several times in his recount of how God helped him build the wall of Jerusalem, Nehemiah tells about God's goodness to him. In chapter 2, Nehemiah encouraged the priests and the nobles and the rulers to get on with that great work. <sup>17</sup>*Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let*

*us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. <sup>18</sup>Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”* (Nehemiah 2:17,18)

The Lord showed His goodness to Ezra in a similar way as Ezra encouraged the people to help him build the house of God. Here is part of that exciting story: *“<sup>18</sup>And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses. <sup>19</sup>And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. <sup>20</sup>For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. <sup>21</sup>And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat, <sup>22</sup>And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.”* (Ezra 6:18-22)

Hezekiah also experienced this goodness as he took steps to protect the people of Jerusalem from Sennacherib, king of Assyria, who had come to fight against Jerusalem and take it for himself. These verses tell of the wisdom God gave to Hezekiah and the comfort God gave His people as He assured them that He would fight their battles for them and give them protection: *“<sup>2</sup>And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, <sup>3</sup>He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him. <sup>4</sup>So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water? <sup>5</sup>Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance. <sup>6</sup>And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying, <sup>7</sup>Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: <sup>8</sup>**With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.”*** (II Chronicles 32:2-8)

God has never changed. He is still the same today. I am His child. In everything that He has called me to do, He will provide protection and provision. I do not have an arm of flesh to help me, but the very LORD God who can provide for me and fight all my battles. Lord, help me to put my trust in You because You are good and You will provide for me and protect me and will strengthen me to do the work whereunto You have called me.

7. God is good because He hears prayer and delivers His children when they seek Him in time of trouble

Psalm 34:4-10 says, *“<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from **all** my fears. <sup>5</sup>They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. <sup>6</sup>This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of **all** his troubles. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. <sup>8</sup>O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. <sup>9</sup>O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is **no want** to them that fear him. <sup>10</sup>The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want **any** good thing.”*

David lists several things that the Lord did for him when he sought the Lord.

a. The LORD heard him. The Lord heard and answered David’s prayer.

b. The LORD delivered him from fear. The Lord delivered David from **all** his fears. He gave him light and because of God’s answer to prayer, David was not ashamed. The Lord did not forget or forsake him.

c. The LORD delivered him from trouble. *“<sup>6</sup>This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of **all** his troubles.”* David repeats this in verses 17 – 19, giving assurance that God cares about every trouble and trial. *“<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of **all** their troubles. <sup>18</sup>The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. <sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them **all**.”* Are you in trouble? Am I in trouble? Have I sought God with a humble heart, a broken heart and a contrite spirit? Then I can cry out to Him and know that the Lord will hear me and deliver me out of all my trouble because Psalm 34:17-19 assures me that it is so.

Consider these other examples in the book of Psalms.

*“O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from **all** them that persecute me, and deliver me.”* (Psalm 7:1)

*“<sup>4</sup>Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul... <sup>6</sup>I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good. <sup>7</sup>For he hath delivered me out of **all** trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.”* (Psalm 54:4,6,7)

The same concept is repeated over and over again in similar ways numerous times throughout the book of Psalms. I ask myself, “Then why am I still in trouble?” Job asked himself the same thing. He was in trouble at the hands of Satan, at the hands of his friends, and even through criticism from his own wife. The trouble went on and on even though Job was an upright man, one that eschewed (or stayed away from, avoided) evil and feared God. So why was he in such a trouble, and why was this trouble not taken away. There are, I believe, several reasons for this.

1. To glorify God. Satan had charged Job, God's servant, with loving God and being loyal to Him because God protected him and did good things for him. *"Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? <sup>10</sup>Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land,"* Satan accused. (See Job 1:9) Yet, in all that he went through, Job *"Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."* (See verse 22)

2. To teach others that trouble is not always a sign of judgment from God. Job's friends were sure all these terrible things had come upon him because he had sin in his life. They were sure that it was the judgment of God. They spent a lot of time criticizing him. They also spent a long time in his house and did not help his wife with the food or help to take care of his property. They just watched everything deteriorate while they criticized and accused their friend. At the end of all Job's trouble, *"...the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath."* (Job 42:7b) These three friends had to bring an offering and ask Job to pray for them because God would accept Job. The three friends were to do this so that God would not deal with them according to their folly.

3. To humble Job and to show Job that God is holy and all powerful and right. After Job had pleaded with God to explain Himself, and God had answered him, *"<sup>1</sup>Then Job answered the LORD, and said, <sup>2</sup>I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee... <sup>5</sup>I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. <sup>6</sup>Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."* (Job 42:1,2 & 5)

4. To teach Job to forgive those who had hurt him. Job's friends brought offerings to Job and Job offered them to the Lord because the Lord would accept Job. *"And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before."* (Job 42:10) It was after Job had prayed for his friends that God delivered Job out of his troubles and blessed him much more than he was blessed before all his troubles began.

5. To teach Job's wife to trust. Job's wife had trouble with trusting from the very beginning. She said, *"Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."* (Job 2:9b) Job's wife saw the trouble and pain Job was in. She saw their financial situation and looked ahead to the devastation it would bring. She seemed to think that it would be better just to curse God and die and get it all over with. But God was teaching her to wait and that blessings come out of trials. Big blessings come out of big trials. After God delivered Job out of his troubles, Job's wife had ten more children. God did not forget her and her pain and sorrow and reproach. He allowed her to bear seven sons and three daughters.

6. To leave an example for those who come after.  
I can learn from Job's example. I learn that there is a reason for my trouble. If I trust God, He can use that trouble and use my life in that trouble to glorify Him. I learn that trouble is not always God's judgment or chastisement. I learn to humble myself before God and acknowledge

that He is holy, powerful, and does all things well. I learn to forgive those who hurt me. And I learn how to trust.

Does it seem like you or I are in a time of trouble, that the trouble goes on and on? Have we prayed and yet the trouble never seems to end? Perhaps God is waiting for us to put one of these lessons into place. Perhaps we need to learn to trust God or to humble ourselves before Him. Perhaps God is waiting for us to forgive someone who has done us wrong or hurt us. Or perhaps God is waiting for us to learn more about Him and His character. We can be assured that, as long as our trouble continues, God has a specific purpose in that trouble, and the trouble will end when God has accomplished that purpose. In the meantime, it is OK to cry out to God. <sup>5</sup>*I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.* <sup>6</sup>*For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.* <sup>7</sup>*Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.*" (Psalm 32:5-7)

8. God is good because of His good name

*"I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints."* (Psalm 52:9)

What is good about God's name?

a. God's name reminds us of some important things

1. His mercy.

*"<sup>8</sup>But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. <sup>9</sup>I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints."* (Psalm 52:8,9)

I trust in the mercy of God for ever. I will praise thee for ever. How did God show His mercy? "Because thou has done it." Done what? What did God do? This psalm tells how God destroys those that boast themselves of mischief and plucks them out of their dwelling place. Yet the righteous are not harmed, but rather see God's working and fear Him. They know that it is God who has done these things. He has done these things because He is merciful to those who fear Him and protects them.

2. His lovingkindness

*"<sup>9</sup>We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. <sup>10</sup>According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth..."* (Psalm 48:9,10a)

3. His righteousness

*"<sup>10</sup>According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness."* (Psalm 48:10) God's right hand is **full** of righteousness.

#### 4. His judgments

*"<sup>10</sup>According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments."* (Psalm 48:10,11)

#### 5. His guiding presence

*"<sup>10</sup>According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness... <sup>14</sup>For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."* (Psalm 48:10,14) We can be assured that God will be with us and that He will be our guide throughout all our life, even to the time of our death. Thank You, God!

There are no doubt many other things God's name can bring to our minds, but these will provide some good material upon which to meditate for a while.

#### b. God's name is a place of safety

##### 1. The only name that brings salvation

*"<sup>10</sup>Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. <sup>11</sup>This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. <sup>12</sup>Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (Acts 4:10-12)

##### 2. A strong tower, a fortress for God's people in time of trouble

*"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."*

II Samuel 22 explains a little more, *"<sup>2</sup>And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; <sup>3</sup>The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. <sup>4</sup>I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. <sup>5</sup>When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; <sup>6</sup>The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; <sup>7</sup>In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears."*

Because I belong to God, I can cry to Him when I am in distress, and I know He will hear me and answer me. God is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, the God of my rock, my shield, my salvation, my high tower, my refuge, my Savior, my God and the one who hears my cry. Thank You, God. Help me to remember to cry out to You and to call upon Your name when I am in trouble and to trust You because You are my place of refuge and You will hear.

## 9. God is good because His truth endures to all generations

*“<sup>4</sup>Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”* (Pam 100:4,5) As society changes, what people consider to be truth, or what people perceive as truth often changes. But, God’s truth never changes. It endures from generation to generation.

What is truth? How do we know what God’s truth is? The answer is found in Jesus’ prayer to His Father in John 17:17b, *“Thy word is truth.”* God’s word is true, *“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. <sup>90</sup>Thy faithfulness is unto all generations...”* (Psalm 119:89,90)  
*“<sup>152</sup>Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever...  
<sup>160</sup>Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*

Man’s perception of truth changes; but God’s truth endures forever. God is *“the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”* (See James 1:17)

Thank You, God, that I can always depend on You. You always tell the truth, and You never change. With You there is not even a shadow of turning. Your wonderful word of truth can be depended upon and trusted forever.

## 10. God is good because He does wonderful things for the children of men

*“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”* (Psalm 107:8)

What wonderful things does God do for people?

- a. *“He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”* – verse 9
- b. When they cry to Him, He brings people out of darkness and out of the shadow of death and breaks the bands that held them in their rebellious ways. – verse 14  
*“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”* – verse 15
- c. When they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, He delivers them out of their distresses. – verse 19. How does He do this? 1.) He sends His word. They are delivered through believing His word, and their trouble is lessened as He sends forth His word; 2.) He heals them; 3.) He delivers them from destruction.  
*“<sup>21</sup>Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! <sup>22</sup>And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.”* – verses 21,22
- d. He shows people His wonders in the deep, He shows them to those who go down to the sea in ships and do business in the great waters. At God’s command, a storm comes up. They are tossed up and down with the boisterous waves until their soul melts within them.

They are afraid at these wonders. *“They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.”* – verse 27 But hope is not lost because, *“<sup>28</sup>Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. <sup>29</sup>He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. <sup>30</sup>Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.”*

*“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”* – verse 31

e. He is righteous in His judgments

When the people of a land are wicked, *“<sup>33</sup>He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; <sup>34</sup>A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.”* – verses 33,34 That is, He withholds rain and dries up the rivers and other sources of water. If their land was fruitful, He makes it barren, unproductive.

On the other hand, He cares for the hungry and needy. *“<sup>35</sup>He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. <sup>36</sup>And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; <sup>37</sup>And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. <sup>38</sup>He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.”* – verses 35-38

If they rebel against God again, *“<sup>39</sup>Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. <sup>40</sup>He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.”* – verses 39,40 He brings them low and brings affliction and sorrow upon them. He judges their rulers and brings down their rulers.

Yet – *“Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.”* – verse 41 Those that are not part of the evil and wickedness, He sets aside for Himself and protects them and builds them up, raising up seed after them.

f. He causes the righteous to rejoice

g. He causes all iniquity to stop its mouth

h. He causes all who wisely observe these things to understand His lovingkindness

*“<sup>42</sup>The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. <sup>43</sup>Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.”* – verses 42 and 43

Thank You, God, that You care about my country, about my land. Even if You judge it, You are happy to grant forgiveness and restore it again to its former greatness if those who dwell in it will only repent and cry out to You. You are a God of lovingkindness!

11. God is good and His name is pleasant

*“Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.”* (Psalm 135:3)

Psalm 135 shows some ways that God is good.

a. He is great and is above all gods. *“For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.”* (verse 5)

b. The Lord does what He pleases in heaven and in earth. *“Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.”* (verse 6)

c. The Lord is in control of nature and of nature’s laws. *“He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasuries.”* (verse 7)

d. The Lord is in control of the nations

1. The Lord chose Jacob for Himself and Israel for His peculiar treasure (See verse 2).

2. The Lord did signs and wonders in Egypt and upon Pharaoh and his servants. The Lord smote all the firstborn of Egypt. (See verses 9 and 10)

3. The Lord *“smote great nations, and slew mighty kings; <sup>11</sup>Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan: <sup>12</sup>And gave their land for an heritage, an heritage unto Israel his people.”*(verses 11,12)

4. The Lord judges His people and is gentle to them in chastisement. *“For the LORD will judge his people, and he will repent himself concerning his servants.”*(verse 14)

5. The Lord is great and powerful and just, and the Lord is a personal God. These characteristics of God stand out in contrast to all other gods. *“<sup>15</sup>The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. <sup>16</sup>They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; <sup>17</sup>They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. <sup>18</sup>They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.”* (verses 15-18)

Because of God’s goodness and His pleasant name, we should bless and praise the Lord.

*“<sup>19</sup>Bless the LORD, O house of Israel: bless the LORD, O house of Aaron: <sup>20</sup>Bless the LORD, O house of Levi: ye that fear the LORD, bless the LORD. <sup>21</sup>Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.”* (verses 19-21)

12. God is good because His Spirit is good and His Spirit teaches us to do His will and leads us in the right way

*“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.”* (Psalm 143:10)

Throughout the years of time and generations of man, God has led His people by His Spirit. God led His people Israel through the wilderness, *“<sup>19</sup>Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go. <sup>20</sup>Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and witheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.”* (Nehemiah 9:19,20)

The reason God leads His people with His Spirit is to bring glory to His name. *“As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.”* (Isaiah 63:14) God leads His people to make a name for Himself and to give His people rest.

During the time leading up to His death on the cross, Jesus told His disciples about His Spirit. Jesus was going to leave the disciples, as far as His bodily presence was concerned, but He promised, *“The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* (John 14:26) And the Holy Spirit **did** come and teach them all things. The same Holy Spirit is here to teach us all things, all those of us who believe on Jesus’ name. The New Testament saints also have the blessing that the Spirit dwells inside them. The Spirit of God does not just go with us, but He lives within us and is there to convict, comfort, and guide. Verses 16 through 18 of this same chapter say, *“I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup>Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and **shall be in you.** <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”*

*“<sup>21</sup>Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; <sup>22</sup>Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of **the Spirit in our hearts.**”* (II Corinthians 1:21,22)

This earnest of the Holy Spirit is our promise that we have been purchased for God’s possession for the praise of His glory. The Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation, the seal of God’s promise that we have an inheritance waiting for us. *“<sup>12</sup>That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. <sup>13</sup>In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”* (Ephesians 1:12-14) And this inheritance that we have been promised is *“an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”* (I Peter 1:4)

Thank You, God, for Your Holy Spirit that lives inside my heart to guide me into all truth and to teach me to do God’s will and to guide me in the right way. The Holy Spirit is my seal of salvation and the earnest of my inheritance, an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Thank You God that You are good and, in Your goodness, You have given me Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

13. God is good because He is good to all and does not show partiality

*“The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.”* (Psalm 145:9)

For example, *“He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”* (Matthew 5:45) God provides not only for the righteous, but for all people. The purpose is to draw people to Himself. He desires that they come to Him when He shows them His goodness. *“Despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**”* (Romans 2:4)

The rain and fruitful seasons God gives us are God’s witness to us of His existence and of His care for us and for all that He has created. *“Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in*

*that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” (Acts 14:17)*

Not only does God make physical provision available for the good and for the evil, God also makes spiritual provision; and this spiritual provision is available to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior. *“<sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; <sup>4</sup>Who will have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (I Timothy 2:3,4)*

Thank You, God, that Your goodness is shown in Your provision to me and that Your arms are open wide to provide salvation to me and to anyone in the world who will ask for it.

14. God is good because He gives all that is necessary for life

A. To the righteous, all that pertains to life and godliness

II Peter 1:3 says, *“According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things** that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”*

What are some of the specific things God gives to the righteous? *“For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.” (Ecclesiastes 2:26)*

When we look at people, we perceive that certain ones are good. However, God knows the heart. He sees which ones are good in **His** sight. God gives the righteous gifts that others cannot experience in full – wisdom, knowledge, and joy.

We as Christians can experience a joy that is not known by the world because of what Christ has done for us. What did Christ do for us? *“<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto **a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>**To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away**, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: <sup>7</sup>That the **trial of your faith, being** much more **precious** than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be **found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ**: <sup>8</sup>Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **joy unspeakable and full of glory**: <sup>9</sup>**Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**”(I Peter 1:3-9)*

Here are more things that God has given to the righteous

1. A lively hope
2. An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away
3. The trial of our faith, which is precious in His sight
4. The results of the trial of our faith, which are praise and honour and glory that are revealed at the appearing of Jesus Christ

5. Joy unspeakable and full of glory
6. Salvation – the joy and fruit of it now and the full realization of it when the resurrected Christ returns again.

B. To all people, all that is necessary for life

Acts 17:25 says that God “giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.”

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 says, “<sup>18</sup>Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. <sup>19</sup>Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. <sup>20</sup>For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.”

To all people, God gives

1. Life and breath
2. Food and drink
3. The joy of the success of hard work
4. Riches and wealth

Now, there are some hungry people in the world. Not everyone has a job. And certainly not everyone is rich and wealthy. But in general, people in various places of the world have all that they need to live. Some who do not have enough could have enough if they took good care of and developed the resources that were before them. Some people do not have. On the other hand, others do have but miss out simply because they have not used that with which God has blessed them. Some people should have but others who are greedy have taken away that which those others should have.

Evil, poverty, and hunger cannot be blamed on God. God has provided **all** that man needs. Evil, poverty, and hunger are the result of sin in the world and often the result of those who are greedily withholding from those who are in need or those who have not. One day God will make all that right again.

For now, I must ask God to show me what He has made available for me, to show me how to use the resources that He has given me, and to show me what I can do to glorify Him with what He has provided.

Thank You, Father, for giving me all that I need and for giving me joy, an inheritance, and the hope of eternal salvation through Your resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. Please show me all that You have made available to me and help me to avail myself of these resources in the way that would bring glory to You and further Your cause and work in the world. Thank You for taking care of me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

15. God is good because He satisfies the hungry soul

*"<sup>1</sup>Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

*<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live."* (Isaiah 55:1-3)

*"<sup>8</sup>Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! <sup>9</sup>For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."* (Psalm 107:8,9)

*"My people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD."* (Jeremiah 31:14b)

*"I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul."* (Jeremiah 31:25)

*"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."* (Matthew 5:6)

Not only does God satisfy the hungry soul now, but the wonderful promise for the future is

*"<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."* (Revelations 7:16,17)

Thank You, Lord, that You satisfy the weary, sorrowful, hungry, empty soul. Help me to come to You when I am in need because You have promised that I will be filled. In Jesus' name, Amen.

16. God is good because he gives strength and joy to those who wait on Him

*"<sup>24</sup>The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. <sup>25</sup>The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. <sup>26</sup>It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. <sup>27</sup>It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."* (Lamentations 3:24-27) To see God's goodness, I must seek Him and then wait for His answer. I have hope that He will answer, and I should quietly wait for His salvation. It may be that I must bear the yoke a while before my burden is lifted.

Perhaps I am waiting for deliverance from my enemies. These may be physical enemies, people who want to persecute or hurt me. Or they may be spiritual enemies, the devil and his helpers, that are trying me and tormenting my soul and mind. Nevertheless, the Lord will teach me and lead me in the right way. He will make the path plain before me. My enemies will not be able to fulfill their will for my life. They may have cruel and evil designs for me, but God has His goodness stored up. If I wait on Him and be of good courage, He will strengthen my heart. He will keep me from fainting, and he will teach me and lead me in the way that I should go.

*"<sup>11</sup>Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. <sup>12</sup>Deliver*

me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. <sup>13</sup>I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup>Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” (Psalm 27:11-14)

Here are some more verses that reassure and give confidence of this wonderful truth.

<sup>7</sup>Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. <sup>8</sup>Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. <sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. <sup>10</sup>For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. <sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. <sup>12</sup>The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. <sup>13</sup>The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.” (Psalm 37:7-13)

<sup>30</sup>The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. <sup>31</sup>The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. <sup>32</sup>The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. <sup>33</sup>The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. <sup>34</sup>**Wait on the LORD**, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. <sup>35</sup>I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. <sup>36</sup>Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. <sup>37</sup>Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. <sup>38</sup>But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. <sup>39</sup>But the **salvation** of the righteous is of the LORD: **he is their strength** in the time of trouble. <sup>40</sup>And the LORD shall **help them**, and deliver them: he shall **deliver them from the wicked**, and **save them**, because they trust in him.” (Psalm 37:30-40)

<sup>9</sup>And it shall be said in that day, Lo, **this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him**, we will be glad and rejoice in his **salvation**.” (Isaiah 25:9)

**“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup>He brought me up** also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and **set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. <sup>3</sup>And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:** many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Blessed *is* that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. <sup>5</sup>**Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward:** they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, **they are more than can be numbered.**” (Psalm 40:1-5)

Forgiveness and hope is given to those who wait for the Lord. <sup>3</sup>*“If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? <sup>4</sup>But **there is forgiveness with thee**, that thou mayest be feared. <sup>5</sup>**I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. <sup>6</sup>My soul waiteth for***

***the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.***” (Psalm 130:3-6)

Mercy and grace is available for those who wait for Him. ***“And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.”***

17. The Lord is good because He extends forgiveness and mercy to all those who repent and seek Him and fear Him

***“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.”*** (Hosea 3:5)

***“Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. <sup>2</sup>Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. <sup>3</sup>If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? <sup>4</sup>But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. <sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. <sup>6</sup>My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. <sup>7</sup>Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. <sup>8</sup>And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”*** (Psalm 130)

18. God is good because He remembers His own who have backslidden but then repented, and He will teach sinners the right way.

***“<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me **for thy goodness'** sake, O LORD. <sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. <sup>9</sup>The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. <sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. <sup>11</sup>For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. <sup>12</sup>What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose... <sup>14</sup>The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”*** (Psalm 25:6-12)

19. The Lord is good because He is a stronghold in trouble, and He knows them that trust in Him

***“The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”*** (Nahum 1:7)

When God pours out His wrath on those that have forgotten Him and those that have forsaken Him, He remembers those who trust in Him and is a shelter for them.

*“<sup>3</sup>The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. <sup>4</sup>He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. <sup>5</sup>The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. <sup>6</sup>Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. <sup>7</sup>**The LORD is good**, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and **he knoweth them that trust in him**. <sup>8</sup>But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.”* (Nahum 1:3-8)

*“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? <sup>2</sup>When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup>Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. <sup>4</sup>One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. <sup>5</sup>For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. <sup>6</sup>And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.”* (Psalm 27:1-6)

*“Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. <sup>2</sup>He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. <sup>3</sup>How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence. <sup>4</sup>They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah. <sup>5</sup>My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. <sup>6</sup>He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. <sup>7</sup>In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. <sup>8</sup>Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.”* (Psalm 62:1-8)

*“<sup>1</sup>In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. <sup>2</sup>Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. <sup>3</sup>Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. <sup>4</sup>Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. <sup>5</sup>For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. <sup>6</sup>By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.”* (Psalm 71:1-6)

There are many other such verses in Scripture, but these will suffice to show the great goodness of God in remembering those that trust in Him. Oh, God, help me put my trust in You so that I will never be ashamed, for You will remember me!

20. God is good because one day He will save Israel and lift them up as jewels in His crown

Oh, read these beautiful words!

*“<sup>13</sup>When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man. <sup>14</sup>And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. <sup>15</sup>The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. <sup>17</sup>For **how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty!** corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.”* (Zechariah 9:13-17)

And these happy words

*“<sup>17</sup>Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off. <sup>18</sup>Thine heart shall meditate terror. Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers? <sup>19</sup>Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand. <sup>20</sup>Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. <sup>21</sup>But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. <sup>22</sup>For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”* (Isaiah 33:17-22)

21. God alone is good

*“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. <sup>18</sup>And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? <sup>19</sup>And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? **none is good, save one, that is, God.** <sup>20</sup>Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. <sup>21</sup>And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. <sup>22</sup>Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. <sup>23</sup>And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. <sup>24</sup>And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!”* (Luke 18:17-24)

One day a rich ruler came to Jesus. He saw that Jesus had called little children to Him and accepted them. So the ruler asked Him, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus is God the Son, but the ruler did not comprehend this. To him, Jesus was simply a good man, a good teacher. But, he felt that Jesus must have the answer to how someone is to obtain eternal life. However, he started with the wrong idea – that some men are good.

Jesus reminded this ruler that “none is good, save one, that is God.” People are not accepted of God because they are good. The Bible teaches that “*There is none righteous, no, not one.*” (Romans 3:10) Ecclesiastes 7:20 affirms that “*there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*” Also, in Romans 3:23 we see that “*all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*”

Not only did the ruler think that some people are good, but he also thought that his riches would help him. Jesus reminded the ruler of the commandments, but the ruler responded, “*All these have I kept from my youth up.*” But Jesus knew one commandment this man did not keep. He said to the man, “*Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*” The rich ruler’s response reveals his true heart, “*And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.*” The ruler wanted to be accepted by God, he wanted to go to heaven; but he did not want to let go of the treasures he had here on earth. He esteemed his riches to be more important than God. The commandment he could not keep was, “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*” (Exodus 20:3) The key was, “*thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*” (Deuteronomy 6:5) But the ruler could not do that because he loved his money more than God. He went away sorrowful – sorrowful because he would not give up his riches and sorrowful because he knew that, if he did not love God enough to be willing to give up his riches, he would not be accepted of God and he would not enter into the kingdom of God.

How is it with you, my friend? Is there something you are not willing to give up? Is there something you hold dearer than God? Lay it down at Jesus’ feet and surrender all to God. Love Him with all your heart and soul and might. There is nothing worth missing out on being accepted of God and entering the kingdom of God, nothing at all.

22. God is good because He leads people to repentance through the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering

“*Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God** leadeth thee to repentance?*” (Romans 2:4)

Psalm 86:5 says, “*Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*” The Lord is ready to extend forgiveness and mercy to **all** that call upon Him.

“*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*” (Ephesians 1:7) How do we have this redemption and forgiveness of sins? Through the riches of God’s grace. Through God’s goodness whereby He led us to repentance. Through His riches of His goodness, forbearance and longsuffering. And how great are these riches! Romans 11:33 says, “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*” God’s riches are so

great that no one can even find them out. There is plenty for all, if everyone would only take it. Have you taken of it? If not, why not today? If so, take time to thank God and rejoice in the goodness imparted to you through His bountiful store of the riches of grace, mercy, peace, forgiveness, goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering.

Thank You, God, for all your riches that You have bestowed upon me abundantly!

23. God is good because of the good pleasure of His will that He has purposed in Himself toward us

Although predestination is mentioned in the following passage and the subject of election comes up, it is not my goal to cover any of that. I simply want to share the many wonderful things Scripture mentions in the following chapter that show God's great goodness to those who believe in Jesus.

*"<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: <sup>4</sup>According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: <sup>5</sup>Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will**, <sup>6</sup>To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. <sup>7</sup>In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; <sup>8</sup>Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; <sup>9</sup>Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, **according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself**: <sup>10</sup>That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: <sup>11</sup>In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: <sup>12</sup>That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. <sup>13</sup>In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."* (Ephesians 1:3-14)

a. He blessed us with **all** spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ

b. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world

The reason he chose us is so that we would be holy and without blame before Him in love

c. He predestinated us to be adopted to Himself as His children through Jesus Christ

Why?

Because it was the good pleasure of His will

To bring Him praise and glory because of His grace

To make us accepted in the beloved

d. He provided redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins

How? According to the riches of His grace

e. Because of His grace, He abounds toward us in all wisdom and prudence

f. He made known unto us the mystery of His will

How?

According to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself

What is the mystery of His will?

He would gather all to Himself both in heaven and in earth. He would make us all one in Him. In Him we have an inheritance together. How? By His predestinating us *“according to the purpose of him [Jesus] who worketh all things after the counsel of his [the Father’s] own will.”* Why? *“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”*

g. He gave us the word of truth, the gospel of salvation so that we could believe in Him

h. After we believed in Him, he sealed us with His holy Spirit of promise.

The Holy Spirit is our earnest (or down payment, our assurance) of our inheritance until our final redemption occurs unto the praise of His glory and we go to live with Him forever.

Oh, look at all these wonderful things! How great is God’s goodness toward us!

24. God is good because He works in us so that we both will and do His good pleasure

Philippians 2:13 says, *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

What results come from God working in us to cause us to want to do and be able to do His good pleasure? Let us look at verses fourteen through sixteen. *“<sup>14</sup>Do all things without murmurings and disputings: <sup>15</sup>That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; <sup>16</sup>Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”*

If we allow God to do His work in us, we will

a. Do all things without murmurings and disputing – not complain or argue.

b. Be blameless and harmless – have a good conscience before God and man

c. Be God’s sons without rebuke – free from chastisement as long as we allow Him to work His good will in us

d. Be sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation – have a spotless testimony before a sinful world. The verse goes on to say, “among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

e. Hold forth the word of life

f. Rejoice in the day of Christ because our labor is not in vain. We will see the rewards of our labor if it is God who has labored in us and worked His will and His good pleasure through our lives.

It was Paul’s great desire for those to whom he ministered, that God would fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness in them; and that should be our desire and prayer for each other as believers in Christ. *“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.”* (II Thessalonians 1:11) It is God that counts us worthy of His calling, worthy to work for

Him. It is God that gives us power to work for Him as we have faith in Him. And, it is God who will fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness in us because of His calling and His power as we trust in Him. Because of God's goodness, we can have confidence that our work for Him is not in vain and He will give us the power we need to do all His work.

John encourages us, "*Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God.*" (III John 1:11a)

Thank You, God, that Your goodness is for me and that because of Your goodness, You work in me both to do and to will of Your good pleasure. Please help me to always follow that which is good so that my labor for You will not be in vain. Through You, I can shine as a light in the world and can have confidence and power in the work You do through my life. Thank You, God, that You are good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

What a fitting end to the study on God's goodness! The confidence and power to do God's work comes from God who works in us so that we can do His work and fulfill His good pleasure. Because of this, none of the work that is done for Him is in vain. It will be rewarded. And God will receive all the glory! Amen.