

71 - Is God Good?

Three recommendations before we begin. These are designed to kick-start your spirit for the day ahead:

- 1) Subscribe to Bible Gateway.com's verse of the day.
- 2) Read Oswald Chamber's, "My Utmost For His Highest," a daily devotional (read sample from August 26th)
- 3) Read the Daily Bible in Chronological Order by F. Lagard Smith

You've heard that "*faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ*"? (Romans 10:17 - NASB)

Reading is hearing...and we cannot hear too much of the WORD!

Is God Good? We say God is good as if it were obvious. Growing up, our blessing around the dinner table was: "God is great; God is good; and we thank Him for this food."

When Barbara and I work with clients, we begin with prayer, followed by a simple test: we ask the person to think, "God is good." Just hold that thought. Seems simple enough, but what happens is that the physical body will demonstrate whether that thought is congruent throughout every cell of a person's body or not. It's not about conscious belief, but about subconscious belief, in which there is only truth and no lie, because that's where the memory compares statements with experience. When our experience of God is other than what we've been taught to believe, a short circuit registers somewhere in the spirit. The genuine and the false don't match up in the spirit. The spirit only resonates with the truth. We may convince ourselves over time, to believe something, but if it's not true, our body's will bear the burden of living a lie, really. Sounds harsh, I know. Many times, the disconnect occurs before we're too young to remember actual experiences. We may develop allergies, trouble sleeping, even chronic or life-threatening diseases, for which treatment only serves to make the situation more tolerable, but never addresses the original short circuit.

Part of what the word, "saved", means "to make well, heal, restore to health."

My experience of the Body of Christ is that its members look like the walking wounded. There are as many health problems as there are among the unsaved. How is that possible if being saved means "to make well, heal, restore to health"?

Maybe we aren't as saved as we think we are -- clearly we haven't entered into all that it means. And maybe that's because we really *don't* believe God is good...not really.

Corrie ten Boom: "You say God is good when your church picnic is rained out. I say God is good when I witnessed my sister being murdered in a Nazi concentration camp."

Luke 18:19 197-

Jesus said to him, "Why are you terming Me good? Not one is good except One, [the] God."

OT: Law - servant - atonement through sacrifice - produced enemies (**Romans 5:10** - "*For if, being enemies, we were conciliated to God through the death of His Son, much rather, being conciliated, we shall be saved in His life.*") at enmity with God (enmity is "extreme ill will," open hostility and hatred; **Romans 8:7**, "*the disposition of the flesh is enmity to God, for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither is it able.*")

NT: Grace - sons (and daughters) - salvation and total justification through Christ's sacrifice - produced conciliated friends

Romans 8

For whoever are being led by God's spirit, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not get slavery's spirit to fear again, but you got the spirit of sonship, in which we are crying, "Abba, Father!"

16 The spirit itself is testifying together with our spirit that we are children of God.

17 Yet if children, enjoyers also of an allotment, enjoyers, indeed, of an allotment from God, yet joint enjoyers of Christ's allotment, if so be that we are suffering together, that we should be glorified together also.

18 For I am reckoning that the sufferings of the current era do not deserve the glory about to be revealed for us.

19 For the premonition of the creation is awaiting the unveiling of the sons of God.

20 For to vanity was the creation subjected, not voluntarily, but because of Him Who subjects it, in expectation

21 that the creation itself, also, shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Romans 5:8-10

God is commending this love of His to us, seeing that, while we are still sinners, Christ died for our sakes.

9 Much rather, then, being now justified in His blood, we shall be saved from indignation,

through Him.

10 For if, being enemies, we were conciliated to God through the death of His Son, much rather, being conciliated, we shall be saved in His life.

Conciliated: the ending of our estrangement from God. God ended our estrangement from Him when Christ died, and the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. WE must end it too, as Paul wrote in 2 C 5, but, for The Father's part, our estrangement is ended -- no more is there a need for separation.

John 15

14 **You are My friends**, **if** you should be doing whatever I am directing you.

15 "No longer am I terming you slaves, for the slave is not aware what his lord is doing. Yet I have declared you friends, for **all** that I hear from My Father I make known to you.

16 Not you choose Me, but I choose you, and I appoint you, that you may be going away and be bringing forth much fruit, and your fruit may be remaining, that anything whichsoever you should be requesting the Father in My name, He will be giving it to you.

1 John 4:8-10 557-

He who is not loving knew not God, for **God is love**.

9 In this was manifested the love of God among us, that God has dispatched His only-begotten Son into the world that we should be living through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loves us, and dispatches His son, a propitiatory shelter concerned with our sins.

“propitiatory shelter”: a place of protection in which may be found the means of appeasing

Matthew 7:11 -

11 "If you, then, being wicked, have perceived how to be giving good gifts to your children, how much rather shall your Father Who is in the heavens be giving good things to those requesting Him?

Romans 5

1 Being, then, justified by faith, we may be having peace toward God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ,

2 through Whom we have the access also, by faith, into this grace in which we stand, and we may be glorying in expectation of the glory of God.

3 Yet not only so, but we may be glorying also in afflictions, having perceived that affliction is producing endurance,

4 yet endurance testedness, yet testedness expectation.

5 Now expectation is not mortifying, seeing that the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the holy spirit which is being given to us.

Ephesians 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to all the saints who are also believers in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ,

4 according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight,

5 in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of His will,

6 for the laud of the glory of His grace, which graces us in the Beloved:

7 in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses in accord with the riches of His grace,

8 which He **lavishes** on us; in all wisdom and prudence [*the riches of His grace are superabounding - it's all just poured out and overflowing unendingly!*]

9 making known to us **the secret of His [the] will** (in accord with His [*the*] delight, which He purposed in Him)

10 to have an administration of the complement of the eras, **to head up [the] all in the Christ -- both that in the heavens and that on the earth --**

11 in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating [*the*] all in accord with the counsel of His will,

12 that we should be for the laud [*applause*] of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Christ.

13 In Whom you also -- on hearing the word of truth, the evangel of your salvation -- in Whom on believing also, you are sealed with the holy spirit of promise

14 (which is an earnest of the enjoyment of our allotment, to the deliverance of that which has been procured) for the laud of His glory!

Save = Sozo - keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, injury or peril); to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health; to preserve one who is in danger of destruction

Romans 8

1 Nothing, consequently, is now condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. Not according to flesh are they walking, but according to spirit,

2 for the spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus frees you from the law of sin and death.

Titus 3:4-7

3 For we also were once foolish, stubborn, deceived, slaves of various desires and gratifications, leading a life in malice and envy, detestable, hating one another.

4 Yet when the kindness and fondness for humanity of our Saviour, God, made its advent,

5 not for works which are wrought in righteousness which we do, but according to His mercy, He saves us, through the bath of renascence and renewal of holy spirit,

6 which He pours out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Saviour,

7 that, being justified in that One's grace, we may be becoming enjoyers, in expectation, of the allotment of life eonian.

Romans 6:23 - ...the gracious gift of God is life eonian...

John 3:16-17

16 For thus God loves the world, so that He gives His only-begotten Son, that everyone who is believing in Him should not be perishing, but may be having life eonian.

17 For God does not dispatch His Son into the world that He should be judging the world, but that the world may be saved through Him.

Saved = kept safe and sound, rescued from danger or destruction, injury or peril; kept from suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health.

Can we receive from this that Pain, illness and dysfunction are completely unnecessary BECAUSE we have been and are now SAVED?

God, our Father Who is in the heavens, Hallowed be His name, has set up the conditions for divine health NOW! Not later, NOW! If we're not walking in divine health, we must simply make the necessary course corrections and we will align ourselves with the conditions that God has already set up!

I'll be talking about this more on the next two Thursday's at the workshops for the congregation of Healing Rain in Seabrook.

If it were because of Salvation alone, we would have to declare God is good.

READ **Ephesians 2** (page 451)

Then the Fear of the Lord . . .

Romans 11:

22 Perceive, then, the kindness and severity of God! On those, indeed, who are falling, severity, yet on you, God's kindness, if you should be persisting in the kindness: else you also will be hewn out.

Galatians 6

7 Be not deceived, God is not to be sneered at, for whatsoever a man may be sowing, this shall he be reaping also,

8 for he who is sowing for his own flesh, from the flesh shall be reaping corruption, yet he who is sowing for the spirit, from the spirit shall be reaping life eonian.