

I Stand Amazed #2

AT THE GOODNESS OF GOD

God is described in the Bible several ways: Almighty; Eternal, Spirit, Unchanging, long-suffering, All-knowing, All-present, etc.

Last week we noticed that His name is HOLY.....we talked about the HOLINESS of God as we started a series called,
I STAND AMAZED

We should stand amazed at His holiness, because we serve a HOLY GOD.

But there is another word that is used to describe God that word is the word
GOODNESS

We use the word good so much today.

- The weather's good
- I'm feeling good
- That game was good
- That meal was soooo good!

LG electronics means "Life's good"

In 1994 two brothers started a company called "Life is good"

Nothing wrong with using the word "good" or describing something as "good".

But I think about what Jesus said in...

Luke 18:19

No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God.

Definition of Good: that which is morally upright; righteous, virtuous, and pure.
To be "truly good" means there is no bad, evil, sin or wickedness.

When I look around....life is REALLY GOOD!

- I am so glad that I have a good family, good friends, good health, good home, good job

But I am most thankful that I serve a GOOD GOD! He is the only one and the only thing that truly is GOOD!

Today, I want us to stand amazed at the **GOODNESS OF GOD.**

The Bible describes God as good over 300 times!!

Ps. 119:68

You *are* good, and do good;

Ps. 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord *is* good;

Ps. 40:5

Many, O Lord my God, *are* Your wonderful works

Which You have done;

And Your thoughts toward us

Cannot be recounted to You in order;

If I would declare and speak *of them*,

They are more than can be numbered.

God has blessed us in so many ways...

James says, “every good and every perfect gift is from above”--James 1:17

Everything we have is a gift from our generous, loving, **GOOD HEAVENLY FATHER!**

If we started to count the blessings (as David said) they would be more than we could count!!

Ps. 68:19

Blessed *be* the Lord,

Who daily loads us *with benefits*.

I stand in awe and wonder and amazement at the GOODNESS OF GOD!

As we talk about the goodness of God...I want to focus on 4 ways God has shown us His goodness.

I. GOD'S GOODNESS CREATES

Gen. 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God saw that His creation was “good” six times throughout the creation week but at the end of the 6th day God said...

Gen. 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good.

All of God's creation is “very good”!!

Ps. 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.

The trees, the birds, the mountains, the clouds, the sun, moon and stars...they all display the GOODNESS of our Heavenly Father.

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
How Great Thou Art, How Great Thou Art!

Last week, we talked about the angels that surrounded the throne saying, Holy, holy, holy...John also says that the 24 elders cast their crown before the throne saying...

Rev. 4:11

“You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

I stand amazed at His power, majesty and His handiwork because everything He has made is VERY GOOD!

Not only did God create the world...but out of His goodness He created mankind!

He took the dirt He had created and formed the first human being...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life--Gen. 2:7

The greatest part of God's creation was mankind!!

And to think about...and to contemplate the fact that we are "made in His image and in His likeness"--Gen. 1:26

God put a spirit within our bodies, and that "spirit" will never die!!

Ps. 8:3-5

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

⁴What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?

⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

David was in awe and overwhelmed that God gave humans the position to rule over His creation.

You might think of how vast and enormous our universe is and say, "Who am I?"
"What do I matter?"

The fact is you are God's crowing creation...you are the "apple of God's eye"
Ps. 17:8

- The stars were not created in His image
- The sun and moon were not created in His image
- The animals, trees, rivers and oceans were not made in His image

But you and I were made in the image of God!!

Every breath we take is proof of God's love and proof that God has been good to us in every way!

Acts 17:28

for in Him we live and move and have our being,

Not only did God create us and create this world for us to live in...He also renews us and refreshes us every day!

2 Cor. 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.

I stand amazed that I am refreshed and renewed every day by my Creator...His mercies are new every morning...Great is thy faithfulness! Great is His goodness in His creation!!

II. GOD'S GOODNESS LOVES

Psalms 26:3

"For your steadfast love is before my eyes,"

Psalms 36:5

"Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,

The love of God is continually available to us...His love never fails...His love never stops...His love has no end....the depths of His love can never be reached.

Jer. 31:3

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

God doesn't just have love....God is love--I John 4:8

I believe this is the reason He created us in His image...so that He would have someone to love!

- I don't know how to describe the love of God!!
- I don't know IF there is a way to describe the love of God!

I heard of a mother that lived in a remote village with two children. She worked everyday just to have enough for them to eat and survive. They lived in a small wooden hut with a dirt floor.

One day, the hut caught fire and there was no way to escape. The mother quickly dug a small hole in the dirt floor and placed her small children there, covering them with her body. When villagers came to fight the fire, the hut was completely destroyed. They found the mother, burned and charred beyond recognition...but her two small children alive and safe beneath her body. (I stand amazed, Linda Schott, pg. 103)

Any parent would give their life for their children...but think about how much you must love someone to give your child's life up for them?!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,

I John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene

And wonder how He could love me, a sinner commended unclean.

- I think about all the things I've done, all the things I've said, things I've thought.
- I think about all my sin and my guilt/shame.
- I think all the times I've failed Him and fallen short and disappointed Him

Ps. 16:2

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you.

I have no good apart from the Lord...YET He still loves me and cares for me and answers my prayers and works in my life...and sent His Son to die for me!!

There's an old hymn that was written by George Shea called:

THE WONDER OF IT ALL

There's the wonder of sunset at evening

The wonder as sunrise I see

But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul

Is the wonder that God loves me!

When I think about the wonder that God loves me...it thrills my soul...it puts a smile on my face...it puts joy in my heart.

I heard of a preacher that went to Africa on a mission trip...they were teaching the young children in that area about God...they were having a Bible school for them...and everyday they would sing certain songs.

One of the songs they would sing was why did my savior heaven leave and come to earth below...why suffer death upon the cross, because he loves me so. He gave himself to die for me because he loves me so.

This preacher noticed, every time they would sing that song...one young boy in the back would smile and giggle and his face would just light up.

This happened for several days...

Finally, the missionary asked the translator... "Why does this one kid get so excited about this song especially when we say, because he loves me so?

The translator said, "Oh...you I thought you knew"

Preacher said, "knew what"

Translator, "I thought that's why you kept singing that song...I though you knew that his name is Meso"

He thinks y'all are singing that song about him!

(Ben Bailey, TGOc, 663-AG-His Awesome Love)

Your name is meso and my name is meso! That song is directed to you and me!!

It should overwhelm us and put joy in our hearts...we should stand amazed and in awe at the fact that Jesus came and died on the cross because he loved me so!

III. GOD'S GOODNESS FORGIVES

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In Dan Winkler's book on forgiveness, he makes this statement:

When we sin, we FIGHT with God.

When we sin, we are FILTH before God.

When we sin, we are FAILURES to God.

He goes on to say that when God forgives, He throws all that away and allows us to start over with life. (2 Cor. 5:17).

- I stand amazed at how many times God has forgiven me!
- I am in awe and wonder at the times I have strayed and He has taken me back!

The word Forgiveness that is found in the NT has several different meanings:

- To send away
- To show kindness
- To blot out
- To wash away
- To redeem

If you are a child of God...

- God has sent your sins away

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12).

- He has blotted out your sins
- He has washed them away
- He has redeemed them

I Pet. 2:24

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

I think about the prodigal son in Luke 15.

The son wasted his inheritance, ruined his life, and came home broken and ashamed.

But the father ran to meet him, he rejoiced over his son...that came back to him.

God does not stand at a distance waiting to shame sinners...He runs to restore them.

I am overwhelmed when I think about how much God loves me and how much God has forgiven me and how much He will continue to forgive me!

What a wonderful God we serve!

Luke 18:19

No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God.

- God's goodness created us
- God's goodness loves us
- God's goodness forgives us

May we always stand amazed at the goodness of God...when things are good and when things are bad....God is still good!

Ps. 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;

God has been good in the past.

God is good today.

And God will be good forever

Allen Gardiner, was a faithful missionary. He experienced many physical difficulties and hardships throughout his service to the Savior.

In 1851, at the age of 57, he died of disease and starvation while serving on the southern tip of South America.

When his body was found, his diary was also found beside him.

In the weeks and days leading to his death he wrote about his hunger, thirst, and loneliness. The last entry in his little book showed the struggle of his shaking hand as he tried to write legibly. It read, "I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God."

When we look around at our lives, we should be overwhelmed by the goodness of God!

- He's so good that he created man...in His own image
- He's so good that even though we sinned he sent his Son to die for us
- He's so good that he loves us even when we do wrong
- He's so good that he will take us to heaven for all eternity