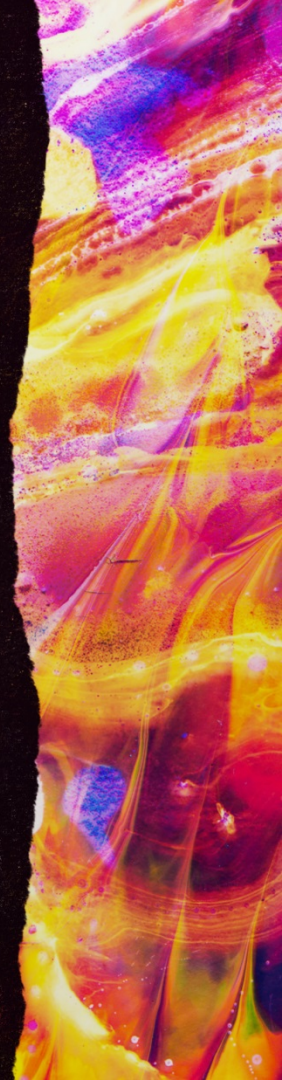


GOD
IS
GOOD
ALL
THE
TIME

PSALM 100:5

**For the LORD is good and
his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues
through all generations.**

PSALM 100:5



God is Good...

Ps. 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord...

Ps. 34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good...

Ps. 86:5 For You, Lord, are good...

Ps. 145:9 The Lord is good to all...

God is Good...

- “Wow, that could have been so much worse. God is good.”

God is Good...

- How do I assess God's goodness?
 - By the amount of pain / suffering?
 - Couldn't it have been better?
 - What if it had been worse?

God is Good...

- How do I assess God's goodness?
 - By the amount of pain / suffering?
 - By my understanding?
 - If I see the point, it is 'good'

God is Good...

- How do I assess God's goodness?
 - By the amount of pain / suffering?
 - By my understanding?
 - By my agreement?
 - If I like the result, it is 'good'

How Do We Make Sense of It?

- God is good
- Suffering happens
- How you reconcile those depends greatly on your starting point

How Do We Make Sense of It?



“I have
problems!”

GOD

“I have
solutions!”

How Do We Make Sense of It?



“I made you
to worship
Me”

“NO!”

GOD

“Now you
have
problems”

How Do We Make Sense of It?

- Does God exist to meet my needs or wants?
- Do I exist to bring glory to God?
- Other vs. intimate?

How Do We Make Sense of It?

- How do I assess God's goodness?
 - Ruth 1:19-21
 - Gen. 50:15-21
 - Heb. 12:10-11
 - Job 1-2

The Heavenly Challenge

- God: “Have you considered My servant Job?”
 - No one like him
 - Blameless and upright
 - Fearing God, turning away from evil

The Heavenly Challenge

- Satan: “Does Job fear God for nothing?”
 - “Job only follows You because You bless him.”
 - “You bought his loyalty.”

The Heavenly Challenge

- Satan: “Does Job fear God for nothing?”
 - “You couldn’t keep them, and You can’t really redeem them.”

The Heavenly Challenge

- Satan: “...touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”
- God: “...all that he has is in your power...”
 - Well, at least he has his health.
God is good!

The Heavenly Challenge

- Satan: “...touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face.”
- God: “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”

The Earthly Question

- Job: “Why am I suffering?”
 - Didn’t know of the Challenge
 - Didn’t know God’s assessment
 - Questioned God’s goodness (31:2-4)
 - Challenged God to answer! (31:35)

The Divine Answer

- God: “Who do you think you are?”
—Job 38:1-3
- God: “Do you really know who I am?”
—Job 38:4—39:30

The Divine Answer

- Did God comfort him?
- Did God coddle him?
- Did God heal him?
- Did God even explain it to him?

The Divine Answer

- God: “Show us all how great you are!”
 - Job 40:1-14
 - “You don’t know what you are talking about”

The Human Response

- Job: “I admit my ignorance and humble myself before You.”
 - Job 42:1-6
 - “You are God; I am not”

Our Response: *Proper Perspective*

- Does God exist for us, or we for Him?
- Do we decide how and when to glorify God?
- Are we willing to sacrifice who He is for what we want Him to do?

Our Response: *Proper Perspective*

- This is not about us
 - Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6
 - Ezek. 36:22-32
 - Rom. 1:18-25
 - Rev. 14:6-7

Our Response: *Proper Perspective*

- We are to learn, not judge
 - We can't use our circumstances to judge God
 - We use what is true of God to understand our circumstances

Our Response: *Proper Perspective*

- We are here for God
 - Whether we are blessed or not, we are to worship Him (Job 1:20-22; Rev. 14:6-7)
 - *The fear of the Lord*

Our Response: *Proper Perspective*

- God is transcendent *and* intimate
 - He is holy and other, and still He loves us with an everlasting love
 - We need to hold to the proper balance of the two