

God is good - all the time?

Sunday 24 August, 10:30am
Clifton Community Church



God is good – all the time?

- We're all theologians
 - “Theos” - God
 - “Logos” - Thoughts
 - “Theology” - God thoughts
- It's not what you feel or what you eat, but what you think that is important
- Proverbs 23:7 - “As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.”

So what you think about God is important. Do you believe He is good – all the time?



The problem of good

- People ask about the problem of suffering - how can a good God allow bad things?
- Is God good – all the time?
- No one asks about the “problem of good”!
- One of the oldest questions in the world
- The Bible doesn't explain suffering, it states it as a fact (Romans 8:20-22)
- Interestingly the question isn't asked so much where there is a lot of suffering



God is good?

- What do we mean when we say God is good?
- There are 14 meanings of good in the English dictionary!
- 1 John 1:5 - God is light
- 1 John 4:8 - God is love
- Do we believe that “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28) and what does that mean exactly?



The story of Job

- One of the oldest books in the bible to answer one of the oldest questions
- God praised Job and pointed him out to Satan – Job 1:8
- Satan replied that if God removed the 'hedge' around him, Job would curse God to His face!
- This is a heavenly battle!
- Job suffered in three areas:
 - Flock, Family, Flesh

Job – part II

- Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters
- He had 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camel, 500 oxen and 500 donkeys
- In one day it was all taken away
- Job's response - “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away, Blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1:21
- Next his health was 'attacked'
- Job 3:1 – Job cursed the day of his birth



Job – Part III

- Chapters 3-37 – Job's friends 'comfort' him.
- Chapter 38 – God answers him
- God doesn't explain his suffering or give Job an insight into the heavenly scene
- The LORD “blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning”
- 7 sons, 3 daughters, 14,000 sheep, 2,000 camels, 1,000 oxen, 1,000 donkeys
- Job lived to 140 – threescore and ten x2!



Christian approach to suffering

- “That I may know Him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to his death” - Phil 3:10
- “My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into various trials” - James 1:2
- “Now, for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour and glory...1 Peter 1:6-7
...rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” - Acts 5:41



Romans 8:31-39

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



Trusting in a good God


- What is your “theo-ology”, your God-thoughts? God is...
- Do you really believe God is for you? It's difficult to trust in God if we don't believe the right things about Him.
- We should meditate on all the good things the Bible says about God (2 Cor 4:6)

our life is the scene of a heavenly battle and is not insignificant



God is for you

- There is One who has suffered for you and sympathises with you (Hebrews 4:15)
- He is using it for good (Romans 8:28-29). He is using it to make you more like Christ
- We have an opportunity in each moment to declare that He is good and each time we do so it is a victory We are part of a heavenly battle



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- all the time!**

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