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# The Goodness of God

## Psalm 100

- <sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
<sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness!  
    Come into his presence with singing!  
<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD, he is God!  
    It is he who made us, and we are his;  
    we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
    and his courts with praise!  
    Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;  
    his steadfast love endures forever,  
    and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100 teaches that to know God, is to worship Him and rejoice in Him. And an essential thing to know about God is that while He is holy and powerful (the last two weeks), He is, thankfully, good and not wishing that any should perish. The psalmist calls us to know that the Lord, he is God! He is good, his love endures forever, and his faithfulness endures to all generations.

Some people are perplexed that a good God would allow suffering in the world. And while we can only conjecture as to an adequate explanation of the presence of sin and suffering, we can affirm that God has addressed it in the most personal and powerful way possible. He sent His Son to suffer and die for the sins of the world, and in Him God not only identifies with our suffering in the most complete way, but by His resurrection points us to the ultimate victory over all that has been lost in this fallen world and the transformation promised in the re-creation and restoration of the divine image in the coming Kingdom.

God's goodness is found in all of his acts. In creation He manifested his general grace to the whole world wherein God saw everything He made and "it was very good" and then allowed the sun to shine and rain to continue to fall on the evil as well as the good. But greater goodness came in his redemptive grace in the sending of His Son, where the angels declared "goodwill toward men" and Jesus died for our sins. He continues with present blessings wherein "every good and perfect gift is from above". That is why the psalmist calls us to enter his courts with thanksgiving.

But God should not only be thanked for what He does, but should be praised for who He is in and of Himself. When our confidence in his goodness rises to that level, then we can trust Him in the midst of life's most difficult circumstances. In Romans 8 after Paul says that "for those who love God all things work together for good", that truth is not to be unduly separated from the verses that follow where Paul speaks of tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, and of the sword as part of the possible future for anyone who follows Christ. But even in those circumstances it is His goodness that prevents us from being separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Psalm is very clear about our response. And it is not just for individuals or our church to respond as indicated, but there is a call for "all the earth" to serve and praise Him.

**Discussion Questions**

- 1) According to Psalm 100, what about God gives us reasons for thankfulness? What about God most moves you to praise and thanksgiving?
  
- 2) What circumstances are most likely to cause someone to doubt God's goodness?
  - A. How would God have us view life's difficulties in light of His goodness?
  
  - B. Have you experienced God bringing good out of a bad situation? (Romans 8:28-30)
  
- 3) Describe a worshipper who knows God is good. (Psalm 100) Is that you?

**Related Reading**

[Knowing God Chapter 16: Goodness and Severity](#)

by J. I. Packer

[The Reason for God Chapter 2: How Could a Good God Allow Suffering?](#)

by Timothy Keller

**Digging Deeper**

Is there currently any circumstance that causes you to doubt God's goodness?

Do my outward attitudes, actions and words communicate to others that I believe God is good?

Does someone you know have a problem believing God is good? How can you help this person grasp this and discover its practical implications?