

Mark 10:18 – God is Good

- 1) Today's attribute is the Goodness of God
- 2) The Bible asserts the goodness of God over 40 times
- 3) This 'goodness' denotes an inherent quality of soundness of character that reveals itself in a moral quality that assures that God always **does** what is good and **works for** the good in all circumstances (see Romans 8:28)
- 4) So "goodness" has two qualities
 - a) First, to be good is to be sound, healthy, pleasant, enjoyable, or fully developed (such as fruit that is ripe)
 - i) God pronounced the work done on each day of creation except one (the second day) 'good' and all of creation on the sixth day was pronounced 'very good' because its results were complete, and exactly what He intended
 - ii) The only aspect of creation that was said to be 'not good' was the fact that Adam was alone, indicating that we were created to live in society with other people, serving them and being served, not as master and servant but as helpers fit for mutual support and the pleasure of each other's company
 - iii) Because our spiritual eyes are from conception blinded by sin (both Adam's sin and our own) and because believers' spiritual vision, though restored, is still imperfect (see Mark 8:24 and First Corinthians 13:9-12), we can only judge the outward, apparent goodness of a person or deed
 - iv) This is why so many best intentions end up having 'unintended consequences'
 - b) Second, to be good is to be morally pure and upright
 - i) Only God's evaluation of one's 'goodness' matters because only He possesses absolute goodness
 - ii) Our evaluations of good can only be 'comparative' ("I'm good compared to) and not absolute
 - iii) My goodness lasts only until someone better comes along
- 5) In today's lesson, Mark 10:17-21, Jesus establishes a connection between 'goodness' that God is, and the eternal life that God offers
 - a) Because of sin's presence in us (though we do our best to reject its influence) everything we think and say and do is, in a manner of speaking, subject to decay and has no lasting value (see Ecclesiastes 1:11 and 2:16, Isaiah 40:6-7, Romans 8:20)
 - b) Because God is completely good, what He offers is eternal – it does not diminish in quality, value, or benefit (Isaiah 40:8, 46:10-11; Zechariah 1:6; Mark 13:31; 1 Peter 1:25)
- 6) Job 3:1-31:40:
 - a) Job questioned the Goodness of God in the face of undeserved suffering, while his friends gave unsatisfactory answers
 - b) Job ceased his opposition to God when God took him back to Creation, saying in effect, "If you don't know how the world was created and if you don't know the rules by which it is maintained, you do not know enough to make an informed judgment on goodness"
- 7) Psalm 73
 - a) The Psalmist questioned the goodness of God in the face of undeserved prosperity
 - b) He withdrew his claim when he remembered 'the end of the story' – that is, the judgment that is yet to come
- 8) In this life, which is temporary, we do our best to be 'good' at heart and in our deeds, but, as Psalm 16 reminds us, "My goodness is nothing apart from You, O Lord"
 - a) When it comes to eternal life, only God is good enough to offer it
 - b) He makes it available to all who will leave behind pride in themselves and trust instead in His goodness and 'follow' Jesus (Philippians 3:3-14)