

New Covenant Principles: Lesson 4 – God is Good

Central to everything in the Bible is the truth that God is good and the devil is bad. The reality of God’s goodness must be foundational to your belief and thinking. You must know that God has nothing to do with evil; it is not in His nature; He does not have it to give; He does not allow evil to come on people; His goodness is what has made deliverance from the curse that is in the earth available to every man who will receive it. This lesson looks at the goodness of God because knowing God is good is essential to rightly dividing the truth of God’s Word. Read the following verses and write down what God created and how He described it:

Genesis 1:4 _____

Genesis 1:10 _____

Genesis 1:12 _____

Genesis 1:18 _____

Genesis 1:21 _____

Genesis 1:25 _____

Genesis 1:31 _____

The nature of the creation identifies the character of its creator. Given this fact, what do the above passages tell you about the nature of God: _____

Exodus 34:6. _____

What abounds from God? _____

Write out the following scriptures about the goodness of God:

Psalms 143:10. _____

Psalms 52:1 _____

Mark 10:18. _____

2 Thessalonians 1:11. _____

Hebrews 6:5. _____

Many people need to have their minds renewed to embrace this truth. They can mentally agree with the truth that God is only good, but they have a distorted understanding of how this applies to daily life. Unfortunately, for most people, their education, experiences, culture and religious teaching have resulted in their thinking that God has something to do with evil. The human reasoning is that since God is the final authority, the creator, the supreme being with all authority and power, then if evil occurs God must have allowed it - it must be God's will because He didn't stop it when He had the power to do so; after all He is omnipotent (all-powerful). One simple example of the pervasiveness of this thinking is that all insurance documents call disasters and accidents "acts of God". Nothing could be further from the truth, yet people attribute "bad things happening" to God.

So why is this incorrect thinking so pervasive in our society? For one, there is an outlaw spirit operating in the world and his goal is to make God look like the bad guy. For another, it is easier to blame God for things going wrong than to take responsibility for our own decisions. Also, Adam's sin allowed Satan to bring destruction, evil and death into the earth. Finally, and perhaps the most fundamental reason is because carnal man doesn't understand the purity (goodness) of God and how His word to man has limited His ability to fix the problems man created – God's word has "bound his hands". Yes God is the supreme one in authority and power, but by His word he has delegated portions of responsibility to man. We will cover this truth in the next lesson.

It usually takes time to renew the mind to the reality that God has nothing to do with evil; any evil at all. God is pure good, no evil or bad exists in Him. Let's look at the some verses to further explore this truth:

Write out the following verses and answer the questions:

Romans 2:4. _____

Now that you understand the Greek meaning of 'repentance' (metanoia), look at the surrounding verses (1-5) and identify what thought process is Paul correcting among the believers at the church in Rome? _____

James 1:13. _____

The Greek word for tempt is peirazo (said: piradzo) which is defined in Strong's Concordance as – "to test (objectively), that is, *endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline*: - assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try."

What is God unable to be tested with? _____

What is God unable to test man with? _____

What should man never say about anything evil that comes upon him? _____

James 1:14-15 _____

What causes evil to come upon a man? _____

What are the consequences of giving in to lust? _____

James 1:16. _____

Given the context of this verse, what is James warning Christians that they should “not err” in? _____

James 1:17. _____

What two words describe God’s gifts? _____

Who do these gifts come from? _____

What two characteristics does James use to describe God? _____

Given the above clear statements from the Word of God, is it true to say that God has no evil in him and so cannot have any part in the operation of evil? _____

Since God has no evil in Him and actually has nothing to do with evil, it is impossible for Him to use it. The source of all evil is Satan, the father of lies whose only goals are to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). The reality is that Satan is self employed. God does not employ Satan (evil) to correct or discipline Christians. Everything bad in the earth (the curse) originates from Satan and has nothing of God involved in it. God knows that since His Word was enough to create everything, His word is enough to teach and correct His children. He does not use accidents, mistakes, disasters, sickness, lack or anything else bad; He uses His Word. Write the following verses:

James 3:11-12. _____

Since God is good, what do these verses say about God and evil? _____

Why is this truth so important to understand? Because if you think God is somehow involved in evil (permitting it or letting it occur) then you will never be able to reject that evil from coming into your life – you cannot have faith in God’s protection and provision because deep down you think He had something to do with the bad

happening. One major key to living free from the curse is to know that God has nothing to do with evil, but that through Jesus death and resurrection He has delivered you from the curse. It's Satan who is against you.

Let's look at what John says about God. Write out the following verses and answer the questions:

1 John 1:5. _____

Everyone understands that light is good and dark is bad. In the above verse, what substance gives us the privilege of walking in the light with God? _____

What has this substance done to you? _____

Romans 5:17. _____

What two things must you receive to live in victory? _____

The grace (divine favor) of God flows directly from the goodness of His nature.

The truth that God is good and has nothing to do with evil is essential to living victoriously and must be the basis for all scriptural interpretation.

The final issue that must be addressed in a discussion about the goodness of God is: "if God is only good, why did He require the destruction of whole nations, including women and children?" Surely that indicates evil on God's part? The answer to this issue requires an understanding of blood covenant. The answer to why such destruction is good can be illustrated as follows. If a man breaks into a house, attempts to rape the wife and is killed by the husband, the husband not guilty of a crime. Why; because he did "good" in protecting his wife. The law of the land exonerates the husband. Although he may not realize it, the reason the husband acts is because he is in covenant with his wife. In a marriage covenant (which is a blood covenant) the parties have sworn to protect each other. So in fulfilling his covenant responsibility, the husband is guiltless of murder.

Likewise, when God destroyed all flesh in the flood of Noah, it was because of His covenant with Adam that the Seed (Jesus) would come to deliver man from Satan's power (Gen 3:15). Satan's plan was to corrupt the human seed so that Jesus would not have pure blood. He did this by having demons co-habit with the daughters of men (Genesis 6:1-5), resulting in the giants (half demon, half man) being born. God destroyed these perversions of the human race to protect the pure humans.

Also, God destroyed the nation of Egypt and the Egyptian army in the Red Sea because of the covenant he had made with Abraham (Genesis 15:12-16).

God commanded the Israelites to destroy all the nations in the land of Canaan because of the covenant he had made with Abraham to give his descendants the land. Throughout the Old Testament, any nation that came against God's covenant people when they were standing on their covenant (i.e. on the righteousness imputed by their blood sacrifices) received punishment from God. Fulfilling a covenant commitment to protect, provide for and bless is a good thing. If it requires what might be considered an evil act (punishment or death) for a party that is not in covenant, then it is a good thing because keeping a blood covenant commitment is paramount.