**The Goodness of God: His Gracious Dealings & Precious Word**

***Psalm 119:65-72***

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Introduction: We come tonight to the 9th section of this Psalm, all verses beginning with the 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, *“teth”.* Previously we have considered: “The Blessedness of God’s Word (:1-8); “Take Time to be Holy” (:9-16); “The Prayer of God’s Servant” (:17-24); “The Word of the Lord in Time of Tribulation” (:25-32); “Setting the Word before our Eyes, Mind, Feet, & Heart” (:33-40); “Petitions & Promises” (:41-48); “Remembering the Comfort of God’s Word” (:49-56); & last time, “Full Assurance & Divine Fullness (:57-64). At our last look at this Psalm I asked, “Can you say: God is all I need?” Tonight I ask, “Can you say: God is good, all the time?” The Hebrew word for “good” is *“tob”* & is used 6 times in verses 65-72. The word is variously translated: “good, pleasant, beneficial, precious, delight-ful, & right.” Recall the words of Joseph in Genesis 50:20 when his brothers bow before him to seek his forgiveness after their father’s death, Joseph said: *“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”* Verse 65 of Psalm 119 could be the summary of the psalmist’s life, *“Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O LORD, according unto Thy word.”* Could that be the summary of your life here tonight? Note with me 3 sections that I see in these verses: God is good, all the time (:65-68); God is good, even during the badness of man (:69-70); & God is good, & His Word is precious (:71-72).

 I. God is good, all the time (:65-68)

 A. **Praise** for the goodness of God (:65)

 1. It is s quite something that God has dealt with us at all; how much more marvelous that He has

 dealt *well* with us. The word *well* is literally “done good” or “dealt graciously.”

 2. “We cannot say that we have dealt well with our Master; for when we have done all, we are

 unprofitable servants; but as for our own Lord, He has given us light work, large maintenance,

 loving encouragement & liberal wages” (Spurgeon).

 Summary: “However (it is) God has dealt with us, we must own He has dealt *well* with us, better

 than we deserve, & all in love & with design to work for our good. In many instances God has

 done well for us beyond our expectations” (Henry). [answer to “How are you doing? (Ramsey)]

 Application: Do you & I have a thankful spirit, or one that is critical & complaining?

 B. **Prayer** for the goodness of God (:66)

 1. *“Good judgment”* > literally, “goodness of taste.” “The power to distinguish promptly &

 surely between right & wrong” (Kirkpatrick).

 2. *“Believed”* > knowing God’s commandments are the best for him (cf. I Jn. 5:3; Deut.6:24).

 C. **Purpose** in the goodness of God (:67)

 1. *“Went astray”* > “did err” (see Leviticus 5:18 & Numbers 15:28).

 2. *“But now…”* > there is profit in the chastening hand of God (see Hebrews 12:5-11).

 D. **Proclamation** of the goodness of God (:68)

 1. God is unchangeably good & unceasingly doing good.

 2. God is good even in affliction & He continues to do good.

 Summary: “We believe in His goodness, & so honor Him by our faith,; we admire that goodness,

 & so glorify Him by our love; we declare that goodness, & so magnify Him by our testimony”

 (Spurgeon).

 II. God is good, even during the badness of man (:69-70)

 A. The **accusations** (*“lies”*) of the proud (:69) – Literally, they have “plastered falsehood over me”

 (Plumer).

 1. “Proud men are usually the bitterest opponents of the righteous: They ae envious of their good

 fame & are eager to ruin it” (Spurgeon).

 2. How should we deal with such lies? “Live as to prove them lies; be thankful if your enemies

 have not any further power against you; & honestly inquire whether you are suffering for

 Christ’s sake & with Christ’s temper, & are giving no occasion for such treatment” (Plumer).

 B. The **analogy** (*“heart is as fat as grease”*) (:70)

 1. *“Fat as grease”* – Literally, “the fat of the midriff.”

 2. Their heart is “as insensible & incapable of receiving any spiritual impression as the fat near

 it” (Wiersbe).

 Summary: Accordingly, *fatness of heart* is used with much propriety, to express the insensibility,

 stupidity, or sensuality of those feelings or affections, of which the heart is considered the seat”

 (Plumer).

III. God is good, & His Word is precious (:71-72)

 A. The **results** of affliction (:71)

 1. In verse 67, the result is obedience; here in verse 71, it is increased knowledge.

 2. “*It was good for me*; many a good lesson he had learned by his afflictions, & many a good

 duty he had been brought to which otherwise would have been unlearned & undone” (Henry).

 B. The **regard** for God’s Word (:72)

 1. It is the law from God’s mouth (cf. Matthew 4:4 & Deut. 8:3). The definition of inspiration is

 found in II Timothy 3:16.

 2. It is *“better unto me than thousands…”* – the largest number word in common use at that

 time – as we would use “millions or billions” today.

 Summary” “He means to say that he would not give God’s Word for all the wealth of the world”

 (Plumer).

 Application: What value to you & I place upon God’s Word? Compare Job 23:12, *“…I have*

 *esteemed the words of His mouth more than by necessary food.”*

Conclusion: Do we really believer Romans 8:28? Recall that this verse speaks of God’s program (the what?) in the first phrase, *“All things work together for good.”* This speaks of God’s sovereign control (*“all things”*); His secret counsel (*“work together”*); & His soothing comfort (*“for good”*). It does not mean that all things are good (pleasant, cf. affliction), but that all things can be turned into good by the Lord. Consider the illustration of buttermilk biscuits. The ingredients by themselves are not “tasteful” but when put together & heated in the oven (affliction?), the result is something good & tasty! Note that this is promised to God’s people (the who?) & for God’s purpose (the why?), that we might be conformed to the image of Christ (verse 29). God is essential “goodness” & He acts according to His nature (:65).

I close with the poem, “This I Know” by E. Margaret Clarkson. And again I ask, Can you say tonight: “God is all I need, & God is good, all the time”?