

## The Goodness of the Lord

### God is Love

The bible says that God is "love." Love is the very essence and the very nature of God. God displays and showers His love upon us every day by providing food for us and healing our bodies of sicknesses. God even shows His love to the wicked and to the undeserving. The bible says that "He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). God displayed His love to us to the uttermost by giving up His only beloved Son for us. The bible says that God "manifested" and "demonstrated" His own love toward us by giving up His Son the Lord Jesus when we least deserved it. Can you fathom such love? Isaac Watts, the great hymn writer, accurately described God's love by saying: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:7-10)*

*"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:6-8)*

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)*

### God is Merciful

The bible says that God is "merciful." What is mercy? Mercy is not giving us what we deserve. The bible says that God is compassionate and abounding in mercy. How great is God's mercy you might wonder? Go outside and look up to the Heavens! The bible says to you that "as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him" (Psalm 103:11).

*"The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:8-14)*

*"But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth." (Psalm 86:15)*

*"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." (Luke 6:36)*

## **God is Gracious**

The bible says that God is “gracious.” What is grace? Grace is giving us what we do not deserve. Grace is the unmerited and undeserved favor of God toward man. God displayed His grace to us by giving us salvation free by simply trusting in His Son the Lord Jesus. Salvation is free and it is the gift of God to us.

*"Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful." (Psalm 116:5)*

*"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:4-9)*

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)*

*"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David." (Isaiah 55:1-3)*

## **God is Longsuffering**

The bible says that God is “longsuffering.” He is patient. He gives us time and time to turn and repent. He does not delight in the “death of the wicked” (Ezek. 33:11) but “that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

*"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)*

*"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:3-4)*

*"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?" (Ezek. 18:23)*

*"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'" (Ezek. 33:11)*