

Hurstbourne Baptist Church; July 12, 2020
Sermon Notes: Galatians 5:22-23
The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

Sermon Outline

- _____ God's Goodness
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Affirming God's Goodness

- The Bible _____ that God is good.
- Psalm 100:5, "For the Lord is _____ and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Accessing God's Goodness

- Because of _____, man was banished from God's presence (Genesis 3:23).
- Because of _____, man has bold access to God once again (Hebrews 10:19-23).

Experiencing God's Goodness

- Key Verses: Psalm 34:8-10 and 1 Peter 2:1-3.
- Is there a difference between intellectually "affirming" God's goodness and actually "experiencing" God's goodness?

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- “Modern masters of science are much impressed with the need of beginning all inquiry with a fact. The ancient masters of religion were quite equally impressed with that necessity. They began with the fact of sin – a fact as practical as potatoes. Whether or no man could be washed in miraculous waters, there was no doubt at any rate that he wanted washing. But certain religious leaders in London, not mere materialists, have begun in our day not to deny the highly disputable water, but to deny the indisputable dirt. Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved” (Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, 6–7).
- “The command Be ye perfect is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command. [...] He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and **goodness**. The process will be long and in parts very painful, but that is what we are in for. Nothing less. He meant what He said” (Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 205).
- “In January 1852, a search party found Gardiner’s lifeless body. He and his companions had shipwrecked on Tierra del Fuego. Their provisions had run out. They starved to death. Gardiner, at one point, felt desperate for water; his pangs of thirst, he wrote, were ‘almost intolerable.’ Far from home, he died alone, isolated, weakened, and physically broken. Despite the wretched conditions of his death, Gardiner wrote out Scripture passages, including Psalm 34:10—‘the young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.’ Near death, his handwriting feeble, Gardiner managed to write out one final entry into his journal: ‘I am overwhelmed with a sense of the **goodness** of God’” (Randy Alcorn, *If God is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil*, 174–75).
- *Come ye sinners, poor and needy;
Weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.*

*Come ye weary heavy laden,
Weak and wounded by the fall.
If you tarry till your better,
you will never come at all.*