**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

October 30, 2022

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, LeadPastor

**Annual Fellowship Celebration**

**Good God Almighty**

Psalm 34:8



*Oh,* ***taste*** *and* ***see*** *that* ***the Lord is good****! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!* Psalm 34:8

**God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!**

*The very first temptation in the history of mankind was the temptation to be discontent...that is exactly what discontentment is -* ***a questioning of the goodness of God.*** Jerry Bridges

God is not good because of the good He **does**; God is good because of the good He **is**.

No one can **overemphasize**, **overestimate**, or **overdo** the goodness of God. He is better than you think.

*My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.* Psalm 34:2

Goodness is defined in the Bible as both **character** and **actions**.

*You* ***are good*** *and* ***do good****; teach me your statutes.* Psalm 119:68

You and I can find joy in every day, not because life is always good, but because God is.

*And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good?* ***No one is good except God alone****.* Mark 10:18

Moses said show me glory and God responded …

*Moses said, “Please* ***show me your glory****.” And he said, “****I will make all my goodness pass before you*** *and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’* Exodus 33:18–19a

God equates His **glory** with His **goodness**.

**Lysa TerKeurst, Christian author, and founder of the Proverbs 31 Ministries,** found out her husband was having an affair and then she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She wrote in a blog about the unknown and how it was causing her to spiral.

“But thinking about everything I didn’t know wasn’t getting me anywhere. So, I started listing things I did know. And **the main thing I know?**

***I know God is good****. I didn’t know the details of God’s good plan, but I could* ***make His goodness the starting place*** *to renew my perspective.* *God is good to me, even when life doesn’t feel good to me.*  Lysa TerKeurst

Life is hard, but God is good. Try not to confuse the two.

*On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth* ***the fame of your abundant goodness*** *and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.* Psalm 145:5–7

***The Lord is good to all,*** *and his mercy is over all that he has made.* Psalm 145:9

**Responding to our Good God Almighty …**

Praise the **Lord**!

*Because your steadfast love* ***is better than life****, my lips will praise you.* Psalm 63:3

***Let them thank the Lord*** *for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul* ***he fills with good things****.* Psalm 107:8–9

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and* ***forget not all his benefits****, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.* Psalm 103:1–5

Give **thanks** to the Lord!

*Oh* ***give thanks to the LORD****, for* ***he is good****; for his steadfast love endures forever!* 1 Chronicles 16:34

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!* ***For the Lord is good;*** *his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.* Psalm 100:4–5

***give thanks******in all circumstances****; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1Thessalonians 5:18

Have **faith** in the Lord!

***The LORD is good****, a stronghold* ***in the day of trouble****; he knows those who take refuge in him.* Nahum 1:7

*This is true faith, a living confidence in the goodness of God.* Martin Luther

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.* Hebrews 11:1–3

*God does not give us everything we want, but he does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.* Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Follow His **Word**!

*Oh,* ***how abundant is your goodness****, which you have stored up for* ***those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you****, in the sight of the children of mankind!* Psalm 31:19

*A saint is not someone who is good but who experiences the goodness of God.* Brennan Manning

*Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.* Psalm 25:8–10

Ask **Him**!

*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will* ***your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him****!* Matthew 7:11

Grace…

*Grace is not reserved for good people; grace underscores the goodness of God.* Andy Stanley

Grace (the Gospel) is under attack today simply because it reveals the GOODNESS of God. Nothing reveals the GOODNESS of God more than grace. John Paul Warren

Believe you will **see** the goodness of God!

*I believe that* ***I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord*** *in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*

Psalm 27:13–14

*We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that He should bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at His love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground.* Brennan Manning