

## Introduction: Sometimes, “Perception is Everything!”

- What we think people “think of us” determines how we respond to them.
- How we think about God determines how we respond to God.

### The importance of our study:

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.

For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. **We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.** This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church.”

A.W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

## **Defining “The Goodness of God”**

- Revealed to Moses Exodus 33:19; 34:5-7
  - Moses' Request = “Show me Your glory” Exodus 33:18
  - God's Promise = “All My goodness (tôb) will pass before you.” Exodus 33:19

“Within the cluster of God’s moral perfections there is one in particular to which the term ‘goodness’ points – the quality which God specially singled out from the whole when proclaiming ‘all his goodness’ to Moses, He spoke of Himself as ‘abundant in goodness and truth’ (Exodus 34:6).”

“This is the quality of generosity. Generosity means a disposition to give to others in a way which has no mercenary motive and is not limited by what the recipients deserve, but consistently goes beyond it. Generosity expresses the simple wish that others should have what they need to make them happy. Generosity is, so to speak, the focal point of God’s moral perfection; it is the quality which determines how all God’s other excellences are to be displayed.”

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

“The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank, and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people.”

A.W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*

## How Does God Reveal His Goodness to Us?

1. Through His \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 145:7-9

2. Through His \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 107

- Redeeming the helpless from their enemies
- Rescuing us from the “shadow of death”
- Healing our diseases
- Protection from the storms that threaten to sink our lives

3. Through His Son, \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 10:18

- Undeserved goodness Romans 5:8
- The promise of future goodness Romans 8:32
- The source of all goodness James 1:17-18

### How are we to respond to God's goodness?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of our unbelief and ingratitude.

*Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

Romans 2:4 (NIV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ in His goodness when encountering adversity.

<sup>19</sup>*How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, before the sons of men!* <sup>20</sup>*You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues.*

Psalm 31:19-20 (NASB)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ stepping out in faith like never before!

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

Psalm 84:11 (NASB)

### Practical Application:

1. Read chapter 16, "God's Goodness," from Tozer's *Knowledge of the Holy* OR read chapter four, "The Goodness of God," from my book *God, As He Longs for You to See Him*.
2. Take three minutes each time before you pray this week and count five evidences of God's goodness to you since you last prayed.