

Philippians 4:8

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence,
if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.*



Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, part 3

Truth, beauty and goodness are called the three great realities, three great foundations on which everything else is built, the three great fountains from which everything else flows. When these are found lacking life becomes a cesspool of lies, ugliness, evil, sin, darkness and death. The events of the last week and year make glaringly obvious how much we need a return to truth, beauty and goodness. God is the source, Jesus is the perfect embodiment, and the Church is the guardian of truth, beauty and goodness. This week's devotionals will help us think on these things as the verse above calls us to do.

Scripture

Scriptures reflecting on goodness.

We should never start a sentence, "If God is good ..." God is inherently good. Wherever we encounter goodness, it points to the essence of God. His goodness is the source of all goodness; and our goodness, if we have any, flows out of His goodness. The greater our knowledge of the goodness and grace of God on our life, the more likely we will praise Him in times of trouble. God's goodness includes His infinitely generous attitude toward us. By nature, He longs to bring joy and blessing to all His creatures. Because God is personal, His goodness is personal. Without God's standard of Goodness, morality, decency, and civility will soon be lost. It can only be restored by turning to Him who is Good, Jesus Christ.

Exodus 33:18-19 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

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

Psalms 23:5-6 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalms 25:6-7 Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Psalm 27:13 *I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!*

Psalm 33:19 *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 34:8 *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

Psalm 34:14 *Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

Psalm 145:6-9 *They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*

Isaiah 63:7 *I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.*

Jeremiah 32:38-41 *And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.*

Lamentations 3:25-26 *The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. ²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*

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

Zechariah 9:17 *For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty!*

Mark 10:18 *No one is good except God alone.*

Romans 12:9 *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*

Romans 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

II Corinthians 9:8 *God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

Galatians 5:22-23 *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Galatians 6:10 *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

***I Timothy 4:4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving*

***Titus 3:4-5** When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

Song

***Psalms 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

The Lord is Strong to Help The Weak

(also known as The Lord is Good in All His Ways)

The Lord is strong to help the weak,
Upholding those that fall,
Restoring those bowed down with grief,
And doing good to all.

Refrain:

The Lord is good in all his ways,
His creatures know his constant care;
To all his works his love extends,
All men his tender mercies share.

Thy creatures look to Thee for food,
From day to day supplied,
And Thou dost for their sustenance
With open hand provide. [Refrain]

The Lord is right in all His ways,
His works His love declare,
And He is right to every one
That breathes the trustful prayer. [Refrain]

The hope of those that fear His Name
The Lord will satisfy;
Their mighty Savior He will be
When unto Him they cry. [Refrain]

("The Lord is Good" words by Chas H. Gabriel (1909), music (1917) © Public Domain CCLI #358926)

Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Lord, our Good Shepherd, as we wake to each day, another new day of the reality of COVID-19, another day we're home with our families or alone, another day we follow the news and hear the numbers and go about our business, how good it is to know that You are with us, calming our fears and providing what we need.

Surely Your goodness and mercy follows us. You are good, and incredibly good to us! Help us to see ways You are good to us, and help us to counter the bad we see in our lives and around us with that awareness of and rejoicing for your goodness. You are full of mercy for us; You do not treat us as our sins deserve, but as we trust in Jesus' death in our place, we are treated as He deserves: we have life, we are welcome and made at home in Your presence.

Lord, we look forward to being home in Your house forever, spending all our days fully satisfied, fully at rest, fully safe in Your presence. Lord Jesus, You are preparing that place for us, and You will come back soon to bring us home with You (John 14:1-3). Come, Lord Jesus, come! Come, bring us home. In the meantime, as we spend these days in our earthly homes, we thank You for the peace You give, even in these times of unrest.

Keep our eyes fixed on You as we go through each day;
Remind us of your goodness and mercy.
By your goodness and mercy,
Your amazing grace,
Lead us home, home to You,
And give us rest along the way.

We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

(prayer by Alexander Scott)