

THE GOODNESS OF GOD – PART ONE

Do some thinking while we wait to begin...

Read Exodus 33:18-34:7. Underline all the words and phrases that describe what God is like.

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. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." ⁴ So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

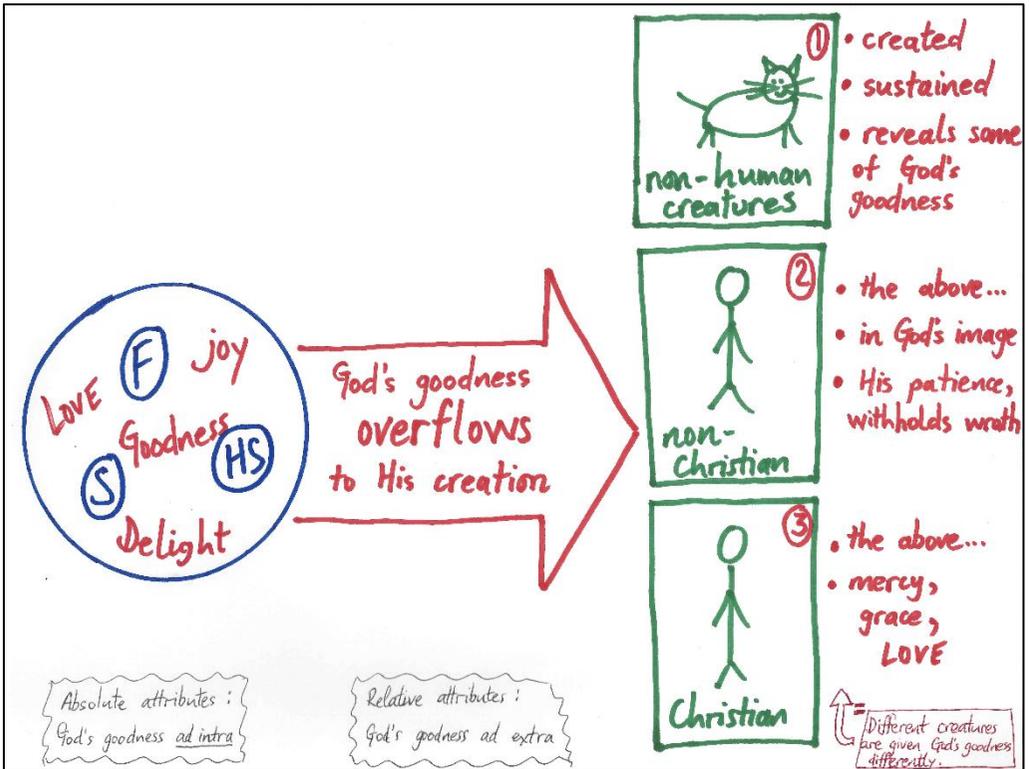
What picture of God are we given here?

1. GOD IS INFINITELY, ETERNALLY AND UNCHANGEABLY GOOD

(a) Defining and explaining God's goodness

"A perfection of God whereby the Triune God's delight in Himself pours forth as He deals super-generously with his creatures."

(b) God's creatures experience God's goodness in different ways



(c) God's goodness IN HIMSELF... and God' goodness TO US

2. GOD'S GOODNESS TO ALL PEOPLE

(a) Common grace defined

"Every favour of whatever kind or degree, falling short of salvation, which this undeserving & sin-cursed world enjoys at the hand of God."

(b) Common grace in action...

- **In creating and preserving them (and the world we live in)**

Psalm 145, 9, 15-17

Psalm 147:9

Genesis 1:3, Psalm 36:6, Acts 14:17

- **In restraining sin and allowing life to flourish**

Restraining sin – e.g. government (Romans 13, 1 Peter 2)

Great achievements – (e.g. Job 28:1-11)

- **Even if they're unbelievers**

Matthew 5:45, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

- **Even delaying the day of wrath**

2 Peter 3:9, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Exodus 34:6, "... slow to anger..."

3. APPLYING COMMON GRACE – FOR THE NON-BELIEVER AND FOR THE CHRISTIAN

(a) For the non-believer: no presumption - repent

Romans 2:4, “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

(b) For the Christian

- Understand the achievements of non-believing people/culture
- Love those who hate you (see Matthew 5:44-47)
- Nonbelievers are loved by God...but NOT as His adopted children... they desperately need Jesus