

Sermon by Bob Brown on Sunday AM 10/4/09
"Attributes of God 6 - Goodness"

We all know that God is holy, and that is one of the Moral Attributes of God, We also call them the Communicable Attributes of God. But I want to start with a very basic understanding of God, another attribute, God's Goodness! Let's begin with a review of God's Natural, or Incommunicable Attributes.

God's Natural Attributes are:

1. Omniscience - The attribute of God, by which He perfectly knows all things which can be known, past, present and future.
2. Omnipotence - The attribute of God, which describes He is All powerful.
3. Omnipresence - The attribute of God, by which He fills the universe in its entirety, and is present everywhere at once, not in part but the whole of God is present in every place.
4. Immutability - The attribute of God, by which He is known to be absolutely unchangeable.
5. Eternal Nature - The attribute of God by which He is the unbegotten (self-existent), incorruptible God of creation and time, but is not contained by time.

The Moral Attributes of God, in the order that I intend to go through them over the next few weeks are: Goodness, Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Mercy, Love, Compassion and Wisdom. As we go through them you will see a certain overlap in the description of some, and that is understandable when speaking of the Nature of God. His Attributes are so overwhelming to our finite minds that it is difficult to put them into describable terms, outside the revelation that He has already given to us.

Everything about nature and creation points to the goodness of God. We have the absolute goodness of God as the true north on each of our moral compasses. How often do we make comparisons to absolute goodness when speaking? We might say, "He or she is a good person." To what do we compare that? We might say, "That restaurant is a good place to eat," or "That car is a good car." When we speak like that we are saying that a person or an object

has certain qualities, or attributes, that are pleasing, useful or good for some purpose or reason.

When we speak of "good" in this sense, we are not saying that the person or thing has its own, independent positive content, but it is dependent upon some standard by which everything else is compared. Goodness seems to vary from individual to individual.

When something is good, in the ethical sense in and by itself, regardless of advantages or disadvantages, then it alone has absolute value. That is only ascribed to God. He is the total of all perfections, every virtue, everything about Him is good in the absolute sense.

Some Scripture verses that we are all familiar with speak of just how good God really is: **Mark 10:18** *"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered, "No one is good—except God alone."*

Jesus also said, **Matthew 5:48** *"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* His goodness is one with His absolute perfection. He does not need to become anything for anybody, because whatever He is, He is eternally. He does not have a purpose outside of Himself but is sufficient, actually, all-sufficient.

Look at what the prophet Isaiah says of God, **Isaiah 40:28-31**: *"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

The goodness of God toward those who are hurting is called compassion, seen in His kindness, or loving-kindness, **Ephesians 2:6-7** *"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in kindness to us in Christ Jesus."*

What we have most to be thankful for is that God's goodness is revealed when it is shown to those who have deserved nothing but evil. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Friends, it is the absolute goodness of God that attracts us to Him, allows Him to find us, and makes us want to know Him in a greater way. Jesus knew this was the case in our lives that we all want to know that which is good, true and just. So He came, showed the way, made the way, and points us to it.

When we find Him, we are to remember all that He did for us, and remember it often. This morning as we go to the Lord's Table, let's remember that He truly is good.