



Welcome!

Truth Applied

- A child's prayer ...

“God is great. God is good. Let us thank him for our food. Amen.”

- ❖ *lex orandi; lex credendi* — prayers shape beliefs
- ❖ What specific beliefs are expressed here?

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- Can God be both good and great? For many, there are two options ...
- God is great, and yet evil abounds in the world. So, he must not be good because he doesn't care (**monster**).
- God is good, and yet evil abounds in the world. So, he must not be great and then is unable to save us (**weak**).

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- Together: Let's talk (and do philosophy) ...
 - Do you focus more on God's goodness or his greatness in your own life?
 - Have you experienced the evil of the world in your own life? How so?
 - Explain why the existence of evil is used as evidence against the existence of our God.
 - Discuss how to reconcile this "problem of evil."

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- ❖ *Doctrine*, if untethered to *Drama*, will always fall short.
- ❖ Start with *Drama*: THE Story → revealed knowledge of our God!
- Together: **Psalm 90:1-17**
 - Who is doing what in this passage?
 - What does he ask for from God?
 - What does this teach us about God's character?

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- **Humbling exercise**—We cannot fully know God.
- **God's attributes**—We can only know what he reveals about himself.
 - **Drama**—Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration
 - **For us**—*Drama* gives us *Doctrines* that fill us with praise (*Doxology*) and shape our living (*Discipleship*).

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- **GOD is great:**
 - **1 Tim. 6:15-16**—[He] is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.
- ❖ God is not an ultimate version of us, but in his own class! He is other ...

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- **GOD is great:**
 - **Aseity**—"from-himselfness"—God is self-existent and independent (Gen. 1; John 5; Acts 17:24-25)
 - **Simple and Immutable**—pure spirit and unchanging—perfect and without unrealized potential (Ps. 139:16; Mal. 3:6; John 4:24; Acts 2:23)
 - ❖ Eternal purpose vs. Revealed will (Jer. 18:7-10)

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

☛ **GOD is great:**

- **Omniscient**—“all-knowing”—God is eternal and knows all that has and will happen in time (Is. 46:10)
 - ❖ Not just a great guesser ... actual knowledge
- **Omnipresent**—“all-present”—God transcends the idea of space and time (Jer. 23:24; Eden, Tabernacle, Temple, Jesus, Church, New Creation)
 - ❖ Not in everything ... but outside space and time

Truth Applied

 **EQUIP** / ADULT
BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Goodness! Greatness!

☛ **GOD is great:**

- **Omnipotent**—“all-powerful”—God has no limitations on his power and ability (Job 37:23; Is. 46:9; Ps. 33:6; Matt. 19:26; Rom. 1:16)
 - ❖ Not just quantitatively greater than us ... qualitatively greater!
- ❖ All this = God's *incommunicable* attributes

Truth Applied

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“God made us in his image, yet only Jesus is his eternal Son by nature. We are children of God by gracious adoption. That means that we are like God in a sense: he has freedom and has given us freedom. Yet God has the kind of freedom that only an unchangeable, eternal, omniscient, and omnipotent God can have. Our kind of freedom is different ... Scripture clearly teaches both truths: God's sovereignty and human responsibility. But we are not told how they can both be true. Like the Trinity, there is mystery here without contradiction.”

— *Michael Horton*

Truth Applied

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Goodness! Greatness!

☛ **GOD is good:**

- **Psalm 107:1**—Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!
- **Matt. 19:16-17**—“Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” [17] And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good.”
 - ❖ God alone is good ... like us, but infinitely beyond us.

Truth Applied

 **EQUIP** / ADULT
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Goodness! Greatness!

- **GOD is good:**
 - **Loving, Compassionate, Merciful**—God loves and cares for his world irrespective of the actions of his world (1 John 4:8; Ezek. 33:11; Rom. 5:10)
 - ❖ Compassion / mercy for those deserving the opposite
 - **Just, Righteous, Holy and Jealous**—God hates sin (Ps. 89:35; Is. 59:2; Matt. 15:14; Rom. 6:16)
 - ❖ Justice is evidence of love and goodness

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- **GOD is good:**
 - **Faithful**—God is faithful to himself and to his promises (1 John 4:8; Ezek. 33:11; Exod. 33:19)
 - ❖ Jesus = God is just and justifier (Rom. 3:26)
 - ❖ His faithfulness is independent of ours (2 Tim. 2:13)
 - ❖ All this = God's *communicable* attributes

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- ❖ Walk through *Drama*: THE Story —> Victory over evil!
- **Creation**—Evil is not eternal. God's creation is completely and only good (Gen. 1:31; 1 John 1:5)
- **Fall**—Human rebellion is the root of evil. It is a corruption of the good (Gen. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:20-22; Ezek 28)
- **Redemption**—God desires to overcome evil and is able to in Christ (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 10:18; Rom. 8:28)
- **Restoration**—Evil is gone in the New Creation (Rev. 19:6)

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- ❖ *Doctrine* —> *Doxology*: Truth leads to praise!
- **“Immortal, Invisible, God only wise” — Smith**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

❖ *Doctrine* —> *Doxology*: Truth leads to praise!

❖ **“Immortal, Invisible, God only wise” — Smith**

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

❖ *Doctrine* —> *Doxology*: Truth leads to praise!

❖ **“Immortal, Invisible, God only wise” — Smith**

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

❖ *Doctrine* —> *Doxology*: Truth leads to praise!

❖ **“Immortal, Invisible, God only wise” — Smith**

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

❖ *lex orandi; lex credendi* — prayers shape beliefs

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

❖ *Drama / Doxology* —> *Discipleship*: Changed life!

- ❖ **Struggle** — For Christians alone evil is a problem.
- ❖ **Jesus alone** — God's goodness and his greatness is seen together in Jesus alone. We live by and for him!
- ❖ **Continuing evil allows time** — God's toleration of evil shows his mercy; a reprieve and opportunity to repent (Matt. 13:24-30).

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- ❖ *Drama / Doxology* —> *Discipleship*: Changed life!
- ❖ **No Philosophical Answer** — Affirm Bible's teachings:
 - God is neither evil nor tempted by evil.
 - Nothing happens without his knowledge / permission.
 - God never permits evil he has not already determined to overcome.
- ❖ This shouldn't surprise us ... it's THE Story!

Truth Applied



Goodness! Greatness!

- ❖ *Drama / Doxology* —> *Discipleship*: Changed life!
- ❖ **Historical Answer** — Sin and evil are dealt with once and for all in Christ (life, death, resurrection, ascension, second coming)
 - ❖ We experience life not philosophically, but historically (think Calvary).
 - ❖ Because it's historical, it can be personal.

Truth Applied



Next steps ...

- ❖ Review God's attributes. How does God having each attribute grow your confidence in him?
- ❖ How will today's lesson help you through suffering?
- ❖ Who needs to hear and apply the message of God's goodness and greatness? Share with them.
- ❖ Pray that the existence of evil would give us confidence in our God to overcome it. Pray for the day evil is no more.
- ❖ Read — **2 Timothy 3:10-17**

Truth Applied

