

God is Good

Psalms 119:65-72

📖 Teth

65 Do good to your servant

according to your word, LORD.

66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment,

for I trust your commands.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,

but now I obey your word.

68 You are good, and what you do is good;

teach me your decrees.

69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,

I keep your precepts with all my heart.

70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling,

but I delight in your law.

71 It was good for me to be afflicted

so that I might learn your decrees.

72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me

than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

Introduction

Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm. This form of poetry starts each stanza with a Hebrew alphabet. Its 176 verses are divided into 22 stanzas, one for each of the 22 characters that make up the Hebrew alphabet. The Psalm is a celebration of the word of God.

A Tree Planted by The River

1. Through the psalm, the Holy spirit gives us the language to express our heart to God. The Psalmist response to God is firmly built on the Lord's revelation of Himself through His word found in the Torah. God has spoken to His people. His words are life to them.
 - Psalm 1 tells us the person 'whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.' (Psalms 1:2-3). Therefore, the Psalmist's rich understanding and intimate knowledge of the Lord comes from the word of God. Psalm 119 celebrates the blessedness of the word of God.
2. The word of God leads us to God. We encounter the presence of God through His word. God reveals Himself to us through His word. The Lord speaks to us through His word. His word gives us insight and understanding as how we should live as God's chosen people in a fallen and broken world.
3. Idols do not speak like God; their words cannot be compared to God. The things we idolize speak to us with words that seeks to seize dominion over our life with the intention of keeping us under its rule. Theirs words are meant to blind us and keep us in bondage. Their words lead us to destruction. In contrast, the word of God gives and sustains life.

Matthew 4:4

“It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

- As you learn to take delight and meditate on the word of God, do you believe you will thrive and be fruitful?

God Has Been Good to Us

⁹⁵ *You have dealt **well** with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.*

1. On reflection, the Psalmist declares that the Lord was good to him. God has acted according to His word and His word is good. Like us, the Psalmist was surrounded by trouble and afflictions. He is also aware of the lure of wealth and power as a means to escape evil and suffering (see vs 72). The Psalmist’s faith is on the word of God. The word of God has opened his eyes to see and partake of God’s good works in a broken world.
2. We live in a world filled with evil and suffering. Sometimes it gets hard to see any good in such a world. There is also the temptation to seek wealth and power as a means to insulate ourselves from evil and suffering. Worldly solutions have the potential to draw us away from God, making us focus on ‘our good life’ and not the goodness of God that comes from above. Only the word of God can open our eyes to God’s goodness in this world.
3. Because God keeps His word, His works are good. Will not our works be good also when we keep God’s word?
4. In the word, we discover what God’s good will is.

Matthew 8:1-3

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” ³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”

No One is Good Except God Alone

⁶⁶ *Teach me **good** judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.*

⁶⁷ *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.*

⁶⁸ *You are **good** and do **good**; teach me your statutes.*

⁶⁹ *The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;*

⁷⁰ *their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law.*

⁷¹ It is *good* for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes.

⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

1. God is good. All He does is good. He is the final standard of good. We cannot understand and enjoy what is good apart from Him.

Read the following bible verses. What do these verses tell you about the goodness of God?

Luke 18:19

Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Psalms 100:5

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 106:1

Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

2. The Psalmist longs to learn and ask the Lord to teach Him. The reason for this request is everything the Lord does and commands is good.
 - ⁶⁶ Teach me *good* judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.
 - ⁶⁸ You are *good* and do *good*; teach me your statutes.
 - that I might learn your statutes.
- Have you encountered the goodness of God in way that has stirred a deep hunger and desire to learn more from the Lord?
- Do you sit at the feet of the Jesus to pray and learn because He is truly good?

God's Goodness in a Messed-up World

The Lord created the entire universe by His word. He spoke everything into being. He declared all of His creation good. All His works are good because He is good. Does the presence of evil put an end to the goodness of God or can God use what was meant for evil for the good of His people? Can trials and afflictions keep us from the goodness of God?

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word.

⁷¹ It is *good* for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

1. When things were going well with the Psalmist, he strayed away from God. His affliction brought him back to the Lord. He is now grateful for the Lord had used his afflictions to teach him and keep him in His goodness. He is sensitive and open to the Lord's teaching during a time of affliction because the word of God is within him. The word of God makes us sensitive to learn from God through our afflictions. The word of God teaches us to know the heart of God and draw from His strength and power in seasons of suffering.

2. His enemies had evil intentions for the Psalmist. In their pride they smeared his name. Their deeds, and afflictions was meant for evil. Yet the Lord used what was meant for evil for the good of His people.
3. God in his wisdom and goodness has chosen a broken and rebellious world as the place where He reveals His glory and goodness. The people living in darkness has seen a great light. He has turned our mourning into dancing. He forgives our sins. He heals and delivers us. He came to seek and save the lost. Jesus came to save this world. All the evil and darkness in this world cannot stop His good work.

A Heart That Can See and Discern The Goodness Of God

⁶⁹ *The insolent smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;
⁷⁰ their heart is unfeeling like fat,
but I delight in your law.
⁷¹ It is **good** for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes.*

1. Unlike the Psalmist, the hearts of the insolent are calloused and hard because they have rejected the word of God.
2. The Bible warns us of this condition. If we keep rejecting the word of God, our hearts will become insensitive to the things of God. We will slowly lose our ability to hear, see and understand the goodness of God.

Mark 4:11-12

¹¹ *He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables¹² so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"*

3. The Pharisees, Sadducees and religious leaders knew the word of God but rejected its message for they favoured power and prestige over God's truth. They became proud and self-righteousness. In their eyes, sinners are to be rejected as outcast without any hope of forgiveness and redemption. They would not believe that the goodness of God revealed in Christ was far more superior than their own goodness. They would not believe and accept that the goodness of God could save sinners, by turning them away from sin, and leading them back to God. The word was made flesh and dwelt among them. They just could not see or accept the word of God revealed in Christ. They saw everything that was wrong with the world, but they could not see the goodness of God revealed in Jesus.

⁷² *The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

1. The world pursues wealth, believing that having much wealth will guarantee a good life. The Psalmist says that the word of God is far more valuable than anything this world has to offer.

2. The world is drawn into pursuing 'the good life', but goodness can only be found in God. Only God is good.

➤ How much do you value the word of God?

Prayer

*⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your servant,
O Lord, according to your word.*

*⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.*

*⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep your word.*

*⁶⁸ You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.*

1. Desire for the goodness of God to be revealed to us.
2. We will meditate on the word, desiring a heart that is able to learn and discern God's goodness in all things.
3. Healing from hardness of heart.
4. God will help us keep His word.
5. God will help us put our faith on His word.

Church

1. Ministries
2. God will guide us as to when we should restart our physical services.
3. We will take time to praise and worship the Lord with grateful hearts.
4. We will come to the Lord in prayer as His children, called and loved by Him.
5. Discernment and courage to lead and bear witness wherever the Lord has placed us.

Covid-19

1. Healing
2. Protection
3. Comfort for those have lost loved once and are facing a hard time.
4. Economy

Malaysia

1. Change of government
2. Healing for the nation
3. God will restore the economy
4. Justice, Compassion and Mercy (Especially towards the poor, foreigners and the weak)
5. Racial reconciliation
6. God will convict the hearts of people of the damage that greed and corruption brings to the nation. (Rakyat)
7. The church will rise in unity to declare the Good News

