

March 26-27, 2011
Embracing God's Goodness

- I. The enemy uses fear and worry to cripple us. The key to defeating him is not to try and “not fear” or “stop worrying” but rather to rest in the truth of God’s goodness.
 - a. News agencies and government leaders thrive on fear – it sells and gives them a tool for control
 - b. God is calling up this generation to rise up above the clamor and engage in spreading His goodness and love
- II. God our Father (provider, protector) has our life planed out, and he has nothing but our ultimate good in his heart.

Romans 8:28-39 (TNIV)

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then can condemn? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- a. God was so concerned about our good that He sent His Son to die for us!
(This is goodness is beyond human goodness which is limited to self.)
- b. TRUTH: God, our heavenly father, desires only good for us. And in his majesty he can even turn our mistakes into good.
- c. Two conditions to operating in this truth:

- i. "Love him": agape love – choice of our will, not emotion
- ii. "Called according to his purpose": we are all called, this refers to us actively engaging with His purposes for our lives.

Psalm 139:15b-16

^{15b}When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you," declares the Lord...

III. 5 Ways to War with the Goodness of God

a. We must engage God in the "now"

- i. God operates outside of time, and therefore sees our past, present, and future in its entirety. We are limited to engaging him in the now.
- ii. He can heal us from our past
- iii. He has already prepared for our future

"We worry because we envision a future without the goodness of God."

iv. We must rest with him in the present

Matthew 6:25-35

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is

thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- b. We must eliminate “What if” and “But” thinking.

Its true that we live in uncertain times, but OUR time is never uncertain with our God.

Romans 8:31

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

- c. Maintain an Eternal Perspective

Matthew 10:28-31

²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

- d. War with our Prophetic Words

1 Timothy 1:18-19

¹⁸Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, ¹⁹holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

John 21:18-19 – Jesus prophecies to Peter

¹⁸Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

- e. Pray in Tongues

Romans 8:26-28

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we

ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. ²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.